TRAVELS THROUGH THE CANADAS

CONTAINING

A DESCRIPTION OF THE PICTURESQUE SCENERY
ON SOME OF THE RIVERS AND LAKES;
WITH AN ACCOUNT OF THE
PRODUCTIONS, COMMERCE, AND INHABITANTS
OF THOSE PROVINCES.

BY GEORGE HERIOT, ESQ.
Deputy Post Master General of British North America.

ILLUSTRATED WITH
A MAP AND NUMEROUS ENGRAVINGS, FROM DRAWINGS MADE AT THE
SEVERAL PLACES BY THE AUTHOR.

VOLUME 1

1807

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TO WHICH IS SUBJOINED A

COMPARATIVE VIEW OF THE MANNERS AND CUSTOMS

OF SEVERAL OF THE

INDIAN NATIONS OF NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA.

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PREFACE.

THE first part of the following work was written with the design of conveying an idea of some of the picturesque scenery of the Saint Lawrence, at once the largest and most wonderful body of fresh waters on this globe.

Numbers of tributary streams, some of which are of immense magnitude, disembogue themselves into this gigantic flood, which, from its principal source, Lake Superior, to its junction with the Ocean, parts with none of its waters, but rolls thither all that it receives.

The restless impetuosity of many of these streams has furrowed up the surface of the land, and produced objects of stupendous grandeur. Several of these awful and sublime operations of Nature, have hitherto been visited by a small portion only of civilized men. Her most wild features, her most striking and attractive charms, are frequently concealed in the midst of unfrequented deserts.

To the picturesque description of the scenes in Canada, is added that of the climate and productions of

the country, of the manners and character of the inhabitants, also of those of the domiciliated Indians, and of tribes which occupy or frequent situations on the borders of the great lakes. A brief dissertation respecting the commerce and constitution of the Canadas is likewise subjoined.

An opportunity of visiting the Azores having been presented to the Author during his voyage to America, he has made two of the most celebrated of these isles the subject of the commencement of this tour.

In drawing up the second part, recourse was had to documents found in the library of the Jesuits at Quebec, and to Memoirs, Travels, and other works, which have been published at different periods. As some of these are written in the English language, it was conceived unnecessary to make any material alteration in the stile of the passages which have been borrowed from them. A list of such authorities as have been consulted will be found below.* A portion of the information has been derived from living observation, communicated by men on whose

* List of books consulted in drawing up the foregoing work :

Mœurs des Sauvages Ameriquains, &c. Par le P. Lafiteau.
Histoire Philosophique et Politique—Raynal.
Lettres Edifiantes et Curieuses.
Voyages de la Hontan.
——— de la Potherie.
——— de Bougainville.
——— de la Pérouse.
Voyages de l'Abats.
Robertson's History of America.
Mackenzie's Journal.
Vancouver's Voyages.
Religious Ceremonies.

veracity a reliance could be placed. A residence in Canada for a series of years, has afforded to the author opportunities of witnessing the modes of life pursued by several of the Indian nations, and has enabled him to adduce what he has himself observed, as well as to reject what he deemed improbable in the writings he consulted.

Amid the multitude of tribes scattered throughout the extensive regions of America, it appears singular that there should be found in use a distinct language peculiar to each, and frequently customs which have but little affinity to those of neighbouring associations. Among many, ceremonies and practices are found resembling those of the former inhabitants of countries in the ancient hemisphere. When there appears any striking similarity with respect to usages, among people far remote from each other, it is remarked in the following pages.

The events which take place among men, many of whom are but little removed from the rude simplicity of a state of nature, appear to present but a barren field for narration. The natives of America seem to possess but little variety in their character or customs, and to be incapable of attaining any great degree of improvement. Their passions exhibit a resemblance to the vast inequalities of the climates to which their bodies are exposed. Like the elements, they are either lulled to stilness, or roused into unrelenting fury.

The almost infinite diversity of tongues spoken by the inhabitants of America, and the difficulties encountered in the endeavour to attain a knowledge of some of them, render it impracticable to afford any very satisfactory information on the subject of language. In the last chapter, however, will be found a Vocabulary of the Algonquin Tongue, whose use is the most extensive of any in North America.

QUEBEC,
26th August, 1806.

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER I.

Page

Azores: original discovery: romantic appearance. Island of Saint Michael: Ponta del Gada: valley of Furno: cavern of Boca de Inferno: gulph of Seté Cidades: culture: productions of the country: amenity of situations. Island of Pico: view from the summit of the peak: influence produced on the mind by positions of extraordinary elevation: height of the peak: state of thermometer: grandeur of that mountain when viewed from the sea —— —— 1

CHAPTER II.

Banks of Newfoundland: uncommon appearance of vessels engaged in the fishery: great bank: cause of the fogs: cod-fish: mode of catching and preparing it: of drying and packing: vessels employed in the commerce: produce of that branch. Island of Newfoundland: Eskimaux, the only natives seen there: account of that race of men. Original discovery of Newfoundland: harbour of Saint John: scaffolds: the town: sterility of soil: uninviting climate: colonization prohibited: importance in a political view: islands of ice: Saint Pierre and Miquelon: Cape Breton — — —— 15

CHAPTER III.

Gulph of Saint Lawrence. Prince Edward's island. Bird isles. Chaleur's bay: its commerce, and that of Gaspé: state of agriculture: route to the capital: perforated rock: the Ganet: mouth of the Great River: Anticosti: wild aspect presented by the coasts on either side the river. River Saguenay: waterfal: boldness of shores: immense depth: king's posts: account of the mountaineers: Malbay: Coudres. Saint Paul's bay: Camourasca: Island of Orleans. — — 36

CHAPTER IV.

Page

Quebec: description of that city: romantic situation: natural strength: religious orders, and their establishments: ship-building: interesting scene displayed from point Levi: extensive and grand landscape presented from the heights to the westward of the garrison. River Montmorenci: natural steps: sublime waterfal: basin, and its strata: description of the fall as seen from the coast of the Saint Lawrence — 62

CHAPTER V.

Jeune Lorette: domiciliated natives: mode of dancing. The Saint Charles: cascades on that river. The Chaudiere: description of its fall: appearance in winter. Island of Orleans: views from thence: soil. North coast of the Saint Lawrence. Cape Tourment. River Saint Anne: its waterfals: lower fall described. La Puce: romantic falls of that little river: various landscapes. Lake Saint Charles: picturesque combinations ——— —— —— 80

CHAPTER VI.

Country to the westward of Quebec. Lake Calviere. The Jacques Cartier: romantic scenery which it displays. Town of Three Rivers. Lake Saint Peter. Town of William Henry. River Chambly. Island of Montreal: religious orders, and their establishments: view from the summit of the mountain. Indian village of the Sault Saint Louis: La Chine: Lake St. Louis: cascades: rapids of the Cedars: of the coteau du Lac: Lake Saint Francis: cascades of the Long Sault: multitude of isles — — — ——— 97

CHAPTER VII.

Description of Kingston in Upper Canada: lake Ontario: bay of Quinté: excellence of its soil: Toronto, or York, the capital: Burlington bay: river Onondago: romantic cascades: Genesee river: waterfal: forts and town of Niagara: superior advantages enjoyed by settlers on the banks of the Saint Lawrence: rapid increase of population, and prosperous state of the province: Queen town: the whirlpool: stupendous majesty of the falls of Niagara: cascades: village of Chippawa — — — ——— 150

CHAPTER VIII.

Page

Sublime subject of the falls further pursued. Lake Eric: Amherstburg: the Detroit: Sandwich: old town of Detroit: beauty and fertility of the country. River and lake of St. Claire: La Tranche, or Thames: settlements on its borders. Lake Huron: Bay of Thunder: Michilimakinac: lake Michigan: Green bay: inhabitants: Saint Joseph: cascades of Saint Mary. Address of the Indians: ancient Hurons, and other native tribes. Lake Superior: remarkable transparency of its waters: grand portage: new establishment on the Kamanistigua — — — — 169

CHAPTER IX.

Commerce of Canada: fur trade: paper money: seigneuries: rights of their proprietors: moderate appointments of colonial officers: maladministration of finance during the French government: state of Canada at its conquest: progressive improvement: revenue: yearly equipment and transport in the fur trade: voyageurs: hardiness and mode of life: difficulties of navigation on the Outaouais river: romantic waterfals: portages — — — — 208

CHAPTER X.

Former state of colonial government. Introduction of the criminal code of England. Quebec Bill. New constitution: sketch of that system. Division of Canada into two provinces; and of these into counties: advantages of Canadian settlers: state of society: manners: character of the habitants, or landholders: mode of clearing lands: acquisition of property: seigneuries: produce of soils: agriculture. Upper Canada: cold, and causes of its long domination: travelling in winter; roads: houses — — — — 244

[By a mistake of the Compositors, the following Chapters were misnumbered.]

CHAPTER XII.

Page

Americans in general. The Iroquois: their villages: habitations of various sedentary tribes: dwellings and temples of the Peruvians: of the natives on the borders of the Oroonoque, the river of the Amazons, &c.: several erratic tribes: the Caraibs, Brazilians: dress of some South Americans: of the Moxes: Patagonians: practice of tatooing: mode of painting: natives of Vera Cruz: Tetons: Cances: Hietians: Dog-rib Indians: Knisteneaux: Chipeweyans: natives of the north-west coast: of Darien or Panama: of Yucatan: Mexicans 271

CHAPTER XIII.

Mode of courtship and marriage among several northern tribes: the Moxes: marriage of the Incas of Peru: the passion of love but faintly prevalent among the Americans: the Mexicans: several other nations: of divorce: American women not prolific: celebration of marriage among the Peruvians: attachment of Indian women to their children: system of education: appearance and characters of some tribes: anecdotes: attachment to their mode of life: Baron de Saint Casteins — — — — — — 321

CHAPTER XIV.

Belief of a future existence generally prevalent among savages: the sun a principal object of adoration among many of the natives. Ceremonies of the Peruvians: of the Mexicans: of some northern tribes: of the natives of Hispaniola: of the natives of Paria: of Caribana: of Florida: of Brazil: the Natchez: the Zempoellans. Cruelties of the Mexican system of superstition: of the Hurons, &c.: of the Iroquois: of a number of other tribes. Initiation of priests and warriors. Institutions of the Jesuits in South America — — 357

CHAPTER XV.

Page

Reflections on a state of warfare: motives which urge the savages to war: the Mexicans: the Iroquois: mode of raising a party of warriors: ceremonies previous to a march: the Floridians: the Micmacs and Abinaquis: mode of travelling in their expeditions: diffusion of waters throughout their countries: encampments: military festival of the Algonquins and Abinaquis: ceremonies on returning from war: reception given to prisoners: unshaken firmness in the midst of tortures — — — — — — 419

CHAPTER XVI.

Treatment of prisoners in South America. Warlike instruments: mode of march, and of attack in use among the Indians: embassies: calumet of peace: dance of the calumet: dancing, a ceremony of religion among the Americans. Commercial expeditions. Mode of computing the lapse of time: record of events: hieroglyphics: quipos: division of time: enumeration: geograpy: inordinate passion for gambling — — — — 461

CHAPTER XVII.

The chace and fishing, sole sources of subsistence among the erratic tribes. The beaver: admirable economy of that animal: man its only enemy. The orignal or moose deer: chace in the southern parts of Canada: the caribou: the buffalo: practice followed previous to the introduction of fire-arms: dogs used in the chace: modes of fishing 496

CHAPTER XVIII.

Maladies of the savages: modes of cure: practice of the Caraibs: funereal rites: northern tribes: Mexicans: natives of New Grenada: idea of an hereafter: grief for the loss of friends: wives of the Inca of Peru sacrificed on his tomb: respect for the memory of departed relatives — — — — — 521

CHAPTER XIX.

Page

Original causes of associations. Tribes inhabiting the colder latitudes: jealousy of each other: authority of their chiefs extremely feeble: chiefs of the southern tribes absolute: functions of chief: councils: subject to no moral restraint: the Mexicans: the Peruvian empire: system of civil government: mode of agriculture: disposal of produce — — — — — 548

CHAPTER XX.

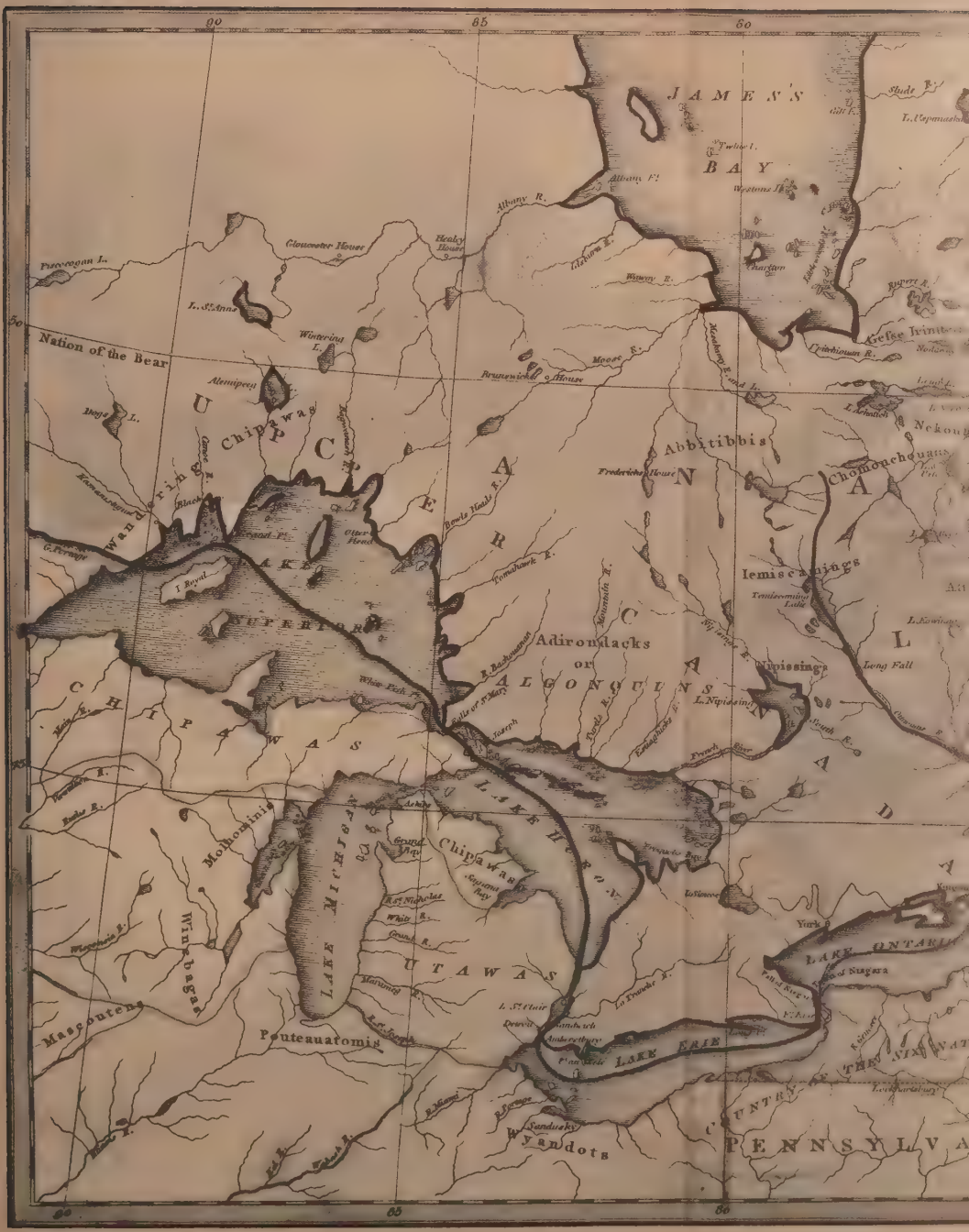
Origin of language: Indian languages in general capable of being arranged under rules of grammar: infinite diversity of tongues in America: examples of four different languages. — — — 569

ERRATA.

Page 46, line 24, For Cape *Original*, read Cape *Orignal*.
Page 112, line 11, For *have* a superior, read *has* a superior.
Page 121, line 19, For the men place *them*, read *themselves*.
Page 304, line 18, For Darien *and* Panama, read Darien *or* Panama.
Page 577, line 4, For *it is*, read *they are*.

Directions for placing the Plates.

Quebec, from Point Levi	Frontispiece.
View of the Azores	to front page 14
View in Saint Paul's Bay	56
Quebec from the Citadel	62
Quebec from Beauport	62
Fall of Montmorenci	76
Fall of Montmorenci in Winter	76
Jeune Lorette	80
Falls of Chaudiere, near Quebec	84
Fall of La Puce	93
Fall of La Puce from the Eastern Bank	94
Ruins of Chateau Richer	94
Lake St. Charles	96
View on the River Etchemin	100
Bridge on the Jacques Cartier	101
Montreal from the Mountain	114
Cascades of the Saint Lawrence	120
Fort of Niagara	150
Whirlpool of the Saint Lawrence	158
Falls of Niagara, from Birch's Mills	161
Falls of Niagara from beneath the bank on the Fort Slausser side	171
Grande Chaudiere on the Outaouais River	237
La Danse Ronde	257
Minuets of the Canadians	257
Encampment of Domiciliated Indians	271
Costume of Domiciliated Indiams	292
Moose Deer	505
Chart of the Saint Lawrence at the end of the Book.	



G. Heriot Esqr. delin^t.

NEW BRITAIN
LABRADOR
Ouchelligoets
Mistassins
Papinachois
RIVER St LAWRENCE
GULF OF St LAWRENCE
NEW BRUNSWICK
Southquoi
BAY OF FUNDY
Lake John
Map of the RIVER St LAWRENCE
from its embouchure to its source
to illustrate a fictitious
description of the
CANADAS

TRAVELS,

&c. &c.

PART THE FIRST.

CHAPTER I.

AZORES—ORIGINAL DISCOVERY—ROMANTIC APPEARANCE—ISLAND OF SAINT MICHAEL—PONTA DEL GADA—VALLEY OF FURNO—CAVERN OF BOCA DE INFERNO—GULPH OF SETE CIDADES—CULTURE—PRODUCTIONS OF THE COUNTRY—AMENITY OF SITUATIONS—ISLAND OF PICO—VIEW FROM THE SUMMIT OF THE PEAK—INFLUENCE PRODUCED ON THE MIND BY POSITIONS OF EXTRAORDINARY ELEVATION—HEIGHT OF THE PEAK—STATE OF THERMOMETER—GRANDEUR OF THAT MOUNTAIN WHEN VIEWED FROM THE SEA.

IN compliance with a promise which the author made to some friends, previous to his departure from England, he has been induced to write an account of his travels. As a detailed journal of the occurrences of a voyage would be no less tedious than uninteresting, he has confined himself to a description of such islands, and parts of the continent of North America as have fallen within the limits of his observation.

The ship in which he sailed, having touched at the Azores on her passage to Canada, an opportunity was afforded him of visiting the islands of St. Michael and Pico.

The Azores are situated in the Atlantic Ocean, nearly at an equal distance from Europe and America, extending between twenty-five and thirty-two degrees of west longitude, and thirty-seven and forty degrees of north latitude.

They were discovered by the Portuguese, who still continue to possess them, in 1449, at a period, when the spirit of adventure in search of new regions, patronized and directed by Henry duke of Vizeo, had incited the navigators of his country boldly to launch into the ocean, and to pursue their course far beyond the utmost limits of former geographical knowledge.

They are said to have received the appellation of Azores from the number of falcons which inhabit the mountains. The atmosphere enjoys a great portion of clear and serene weather, and the mildness of the climate is highly favourable to human health.

The rugged precipices and mountains varying in degrees of elevation, as well as in form and extent of bases, many of whose summits are conical, exhibit no doubtful indication of the violent eruptions and convulsions, by which, at several distant periods, the country must have been agitated.

The tops of the most lofty of these mountains are usually discoverable above the clouds, which rest or float upon their sides, and which their stupendous height attracts amid the cooler regions of the atmosphere. The acclivities, in proportion to their distance from the sea, increase in magnitude and elevation, and in many situations abruptly rise into enormous piles, crowned with cliffs naked and barren, except where the sides are sparingly shagged with stunted trees and brushwood.

The soil is in general fertile, abounding in corn, grapes, oranges, lemons, and a variety of other fruits; and is likewise favourable for breeding of cattle, sheep, and other animals. Fish of various kinds are found in great abundance all around the coasts; and the woods and high lands present a multitude of birds of different descriptions. Animals of a noxious nature are said to be here unknown.

Saint Michael, Santa Maria, Tercera, Saint George, Graciosa, Fayal, Pico, Flores, and Corvo, are the several names by which these islands are distinguished.

The first is by far the most extensive, and lies in a direction from south-east to north-west. It is about fifty-four miles in length, but of an irregular breadth, exceeding not fifteen miles, and being at the centre not wider than six miles. The number of inhabitants is estimated at nearly eighty thousand.

Ponta del Gada the principal town, is situated on the south side, and contains about twelve thousand inhabitants. The streets are regular, and of convenient width, and the churches and religious houses, as well as other public edifices, may be termed rather elegant. Convents and nunneries are placed in various situations throughout the country. The town is built along the sea-coast; the land behind it rises at first with gradual ascent, and afterwards more abruptly, the view terminating by a congeries of conical hills. A mountain on the west towers above these, and is of a handsome form, its summit having a table appearance. In this is an ancient crater filled with water, whose depth has not yet been ascertained.

There is no harbour in the vicinity of the town, and vessels are usually anchored at a considerable distance from shore, in an open and unsheltered road.

That part of the island in which the capital is placed, forming a gentle acclivity of considerable extent, is well cultivated, and divided with no small degree of taste into spacious fields planted with Indian corn, wheat, barley, and pulse; two crops of these are annually produced. Country houses are frequently interspersed with orchards of orange trees, whose fruit is superior to that which grows in the southern parts of Europe.

Ribeira Grande, the second town in point of magnitude, is placed on the north side of the island, and contains

nearly as many inhabitants as the chief city. In it are two convents, one of Franciscan friars, another of nuns.

Villa Franca, about eighteen miles east of Ponta del Gada, on the south side of the island, forms the third town. It likewise contains a convent of Franciscan friars, and one with about three hundred nuns. A small island opposite to this place, and about half a mile from the shore, possesses a basin, with a narrow entrance, where fifty vessels might anchor in security.

Smaller towns, and a variety of hamlets are scattered throughout the country. The surf of the sea breaks with considerable violence, and with unceasing agitation, all around the coast.

The hot baths are situated in the eastern part of the island, and the road leading from the capital thither, is by Villa Franca; from thence it rises by a gradual ascent for about twelve miles, until it attains the summit of the elevated lands by which these baths are environed. The descent into the valley is by a steep, narrow, and winding path. This extraordinary gulph is about twelve miles in circumference, surrounded by lofty and abrupt precipices, and accessible only by three ways, cut with labour out of the cliffs. The soil below is fertile and well cultivated, producing copious harvests of wheat and Indian corn. The inclosures are adorned with hedge-rows of Lombardy poplars which rise in pyramidal shapes, and exhibit a pleasing

appearance. The gloomy faces of the surrounding rocks are shaded and varied by evergreens, consisting of laurels, myrtles, fayas, pao-sanguintro, tamujas, uvæ de serra, and a number of other shrubs and vines.

Streams of crystalline water, interrupted in their downward course, dash with impetuosity and foaming fury from rock to rock, and collecting in deep, stony basins beneath, thence issue in serpentine rivulets, which intersect the valley in a variety of directions; in some situations, rushing on with murmuring sound; in others, creeping along with a smooth and silver surface. These, together with the appearance of the boiling fountains, from whence clouds of steam are continually thrown up; a lake, well stocked with water-fowl; blackbirds, and other feathered songsters of the grove, enlivening by their melody; fruits, and aromatic plants, yielding the most grateful odours, contribute to form a combination of objects, highly pleasing, and wildly picturesque.

The valley, which is named Furno, contains a number of boiling fountains; the most remarkable of these, the cauldron, is situated upon a small eminence, being a circular basin of thirty feet in diameter, whose water, boiling with ceaseless agitation, emits a quantity of vapour. At a few paces distant from hence is the cavern Boca de Inferno, throwing out, for a considerable way from its mouth, quantities of water mixed with mud, accompanied by a

noise like thunder. Around this spot, and within the compass of an acre of land, there are upwards of a hundred fountains of the same kind; and even in the midst of a rivulet which runs by it, are several of these springs, so hot as to be insupportable to the touch. In other places the sulphureous vapours issue with such force from a number of apertures in the overhanging cliffs, as to suggest to the fancy an idea of the place being inhabited by a thousand fabled Cyclops, occupied with their bellows and forges, in fabricating thunder.

The surface of the ground is covered in many places with pure sulphur, which has been condensed from the steam, and which, like hoar frost, is arranged in sharp-pointed, stellated figures.

Not far distant from these hot springs, there are others of a nature extremely cold, particularly two, whose waters possess a strong mineral quality, accompanied by a sharp, acid taste. About half a mile to the westward of this place, and close by the side of a river, there are likewise several sulphureous fountains, whose waters have been used with eminent success, by persons afflicted with scrophulous disorders. Under the declivity of a hill, westward from Saint Ann's church, are found springs of a similar kind, which are much used by the neighbouring inhabitants. These flow in currents from a precipice, and are some of a hot, others of a cold temperature, although only a few feet asunder.

To the westward of these is placed the lake, whose circumference is only three miles, and whose water is of a greenish colour, being powerfully impregnated with sulphur. On its north side there is a small plain, where the earth, perforated in a thousand places, incessantly emits sulphureous exhalations. Thither, during the heat of the day, the cattle repair to avoid being tortured by flies.

The united waters of the springs produce a considerable river, called Ribeira Quente, running for a course of nine miles through a deep rent in a mountain, and discharging itself into the sea, on the south side of the island. Along the precipices which confine it on either side, several spots emit smoke; and in the sea, at some distance from its mouth, there are springs which boil up so strongly, that their heat is sensibly felt at the surface.

The Furno contains two parishes and about a thousand inhabitants, whom necessity compelled to pass the mountains, and to cultivate a spot which was formerly believed to be inhabited by dæmons. Many years elapsed before the other inhabitants of the island began to visit it; but, since the healing qualities of the waters have been discovered, many invalids, as well as others, have resorted thither; and notable effects have been produced by their use upon those afflicted by the gout, scrophula, and other cutaneous maladies.

The eastern and western parts of the island rise into

lofty mountains; but the centre, which is lower, is interspersed with a variety of conical hills, every one of which discovers evident tokens of volcanic eruptions. Their summits are hollowed into basins, containing a quantity of water. On the west side of the island another gulph is to be viewed, not less singular and extraordinary than that already described, which is known by the appellation of *Seté Cidades*, or the seven cities; and whose extent is double that of the Furno. It is surrounded by steep precipices, and contains a fine lake of considerable depth, and two leagues in circumference. No hot springs have been discovered in its vicinity, nor do the waters possess any mineral quality. It has no visible discharge, and is on a level with the sea. The mountains which form the boundaries of the valley, appear to have experienced the most violent and uncommon changes. They are composed entirely of white pomice-stone, unmixed with black lava, affording unquestionable indications of the operation of a volcano, and of its more elevated parts having subsided into the centre of the mountain. There are two hills placed in the bottom of the valley, whose craters are yet open, although almost overgrown by shrubs.

The lower parts of the island are very fertile, and in a state of high cultivation. The soil in general consists of decomposed pomice-stone, which is easily worked; and it usually yields two crops every year.

A vegetable called tremosa, or blue lupin, supplies the deficiency of animal manure. It is sown on the fields with the first rains in September, and from the effects of moisture and warmth, growing to a very rank state, about the end of November it is mowed down, left for a few days to flag, and is afterwards plowed into the ground.

Oranges and lemons abound throughout the country; the first are of an excellent quality, ripen earlier than those produced in Portugal, and are brought sooner to market. The best kind of orange is raised by layers. Water melons grow abundantly in the fields. The farms produce wheat, Indian corn, and calavancés. Vines are also cultivated on tracts of black lava bordering on the sea coast; but their juice is thin and feeble, soon acquiring an acid taste.

The convents and other religious establishments placed in various situations along the borders of the island, and constructed of a white coloured stone, produce a pleasing effect when viewed from the sea.

The aromatic herbs, trees, and fruits, perfume the atmosphere with their sweets; and the breeze thus impregnated, becomes, when blowing from the land, highly grateful to the traveller in sailing along the shore. After having been three weeks at sea we became sensibly impressed by its enlivening influence, which suggested to recollection the following lines in Buchannan's Ode to May:

" Talis beatis incubit insulis,
" Auræ felicis perpetuus tepor,
" Et nesciis campis senectæ
" Difficilis, quærulique morbi."

The island of Pico, from the superior altitude of one of its mountains, is the most remarkable of all the Azores.

From the village of Guindasté to the summit of the peak, the distance is stated to be nine miles. The road passes through a wild, rugged, and difficult country, which is entirely covered with brushwood. When, at seven o'clock in the morning, we arrived at the skirts of the mountain, which form the region of the clouds, the wind became extremely cold, attended by a thick mist, the thermometer falling to forty-eight degrees, and at eight o'clock to forty-seven. In alluding to the degrees of cold, I must be understood to speak relatively, and only with respect to its influence on the human frame, which a sudden change of twenty-two degrees of temperature cannot fail to affect. About ten we arrived at the boundary of the ancient crater, and the sun then acquiring power, the thermometer rose to forty-eight degrees. This appears to have been more than a mile in circumference. The southern and western boundaries yet remain, but those of the north and east have given way, and have tumbled down the side of the mountain. In the centre of the old crater, a cone of three hundred feet in perpendicular height

is thrown up, on the summit of which is the present mouth. The ascent of this is very steep and difficult; and it contains several apertures from which smoke is emitted. It is formed of a crust of lava, of the consistence of iron that has once been in a state of fusion.

At the hour of half past ten we gained the top of the peak, which is singularly sharp and pointed, being about seven paces in length, and about five in breadth. The crater is on the north side, and below the summit, is about twenty paces in diameter, and is continually emitting smoke. It is almost filled with burnt rocks.

From hence several of the neighbouring islands are presented to the view. Pico, seen from the peak, exhibits an appearance no less singular than romantic; the eastern part rises into a narrow ridge, along which are many ancient volcanos which have long ceased to emit smoke, and several of whose craters are now almost concealed by woods which have sprung up around them. The basis of the peak presents likewise some remains of smaller volcanos, whose fires are now extinguished. The last eruption of the peak, which happened in 1718, burst forth from its side, and destroyed a great part of the vineyards.

It is on elevated situations like this, that is felt *that* influence which the vast and unbounded theatre, at once laid open to contemplation, is capable of exciting.—Those inspirations of nature, so eloquent and so animated—that

attractive impulse which attunes the soul to harmony with her works—that distinctive character which the Creator hath imprinted on the heart—innate traces of which peculiar minds are delighted in feeling, amid the rude and sublime masses produced by explosions of the globe, or amid the less stupendous ruins of the monuments of human grandeur.

The whole of the lower grounds of this island are planted with vines; and having been entirely covered with black lava, the labour in digging and clearing it away must have been considerable. When the vines are planted, the surface of the soil is again thinly strewed with lava, over which the young shoots are suffered to run.

The height of the peak from the surface of the water, is about eight thousand perpendicular feet. Upon a comparison of observations made at the same periods with the thermometer on the peak, and at Fayal, they were found to be as follows:

Farenheit's Thermometer.

		Fayal.	On the Peak.
Morning	Eight o'clock —	69°	47°
	Ten — —	70	49
	Ten and a half —	70	53
	Twelve — —	71	50

When viewed from the sea the peak assumes the appearance of a cone, almost regular, of immense magnitude, having a smaller cone rising from one side of its summit, which is that already described. This mountain rears its elevated head far above the clouds, which float around its craggy sides, and is visible to the extent of many leagues.

G. Heriot Esqr. delin^t.

S. W. View of St. Michael, One of the Azores
E. End of the Island St. Michael
u of Sico

CHAPTER II.

BANKS OF NEWFOUNDLAND — UNCOMMON APPEARANCE OF VESSELS ENGAGED IN THE FISHERY—GREAT BANK—CAUSE OF THE FOGS—COD-FISH—MODE OF CATCHING AND PREPARING IT—OF DRYING AND PACKING—VESSELS EMPLOYED IN THE COMMERCE—PRODUCE OF THAT BRANCH—ISLAND OF NEWFOUNDLAND—ESKIMAUX, THE ONLY NATIVES SEEN THERE—ACCOUNT OF THAT RACE OF MEN—ORIGINAL DISCOVERY OF NEWFOUNDLAND — HARBOUR OF SAINT JOHN—SCAFFOLDS—THE TOWN—STERILITY OF SOIL—UNINVITING CLIMATE—COLONIZATION PROHIBITED—IMPORTANCE IN A POLITICAL VIEW—ISLANDS OF ICE—SAINT PIERRE AND MIQUELON—CAPE BRETON.

HAVING taken our departure from the Azores, we proceeded on the voyage to North America, and on arriving at the banks of Newfoundland, a number of vessels, stationed at various distances, and seemingly at anchor, occurred to our view. These we soon understood to be engaged in the cod fishery. They are, in general, from eighty to one hundred and fifty tons burden, fitted out from several places in England, particularly from the western counties, and from the islands of Jersey and Guernsey. There are, besides, vessels belonging to the fishermen who winter in Newfoundland, and at the settlements on the neighbouring parts of the continent.

The Great Bank, which is about forty leagues distant from the island, is an enormous mountain formed beneath the surface of the sea. Its extent is about a hundred and sixty leagues, and its breadth about sixty, the extremities terminating in points. On the eastern side, towards the centre, a kind of bay is formed, called the Ditch. The depth of water varies much throughout the whole, being in some situations sixty, in others only five fathoms. During the hottest weather the fish do not frequent either the great or the smaller banks, but retire to the deep waters. It has been remarked by many people, that on approaching the banks the noise of the billows of the ocean become more shrill and loud, an effect which is probably produced by the shallowness of the waters.

The thick fogs which are here more prevalent than in any other part of the Atlantic, exhibit a singular phenomenon, and may be presumed to owe their origin to the stream from the gulph of Mexico, the discharge of waters incessantly accumulating there by the pressure of the trade winds.

The system of philosophy introduced by Sir Isaac Newton, maintains that the combined attractive influence of the sun and moon, and the centrifugal force of the water arising from the diurnal motion of the earth around its axis, elevate that liquid element at the equator to a much greater height than at the poles; and the degree of ele-

vation, is in proportion to the alternate advancement, or decline, of the power of these luminaries. This immense collection of waters, impelled by its own gravitation, by the attraction of the earth, and by the force of the winds operating with those causes, moves onwards in a western direction, flows through the chain of Caribbean islands, and enters the Mexican gulph between the island of Cuba and the promontory of Yucatan. Opposed by the surrounding coasts, it pursues its way out of the gulph between Florida and the Bahama islands, assumes a course to the northwards, and thus runs in the direction of the coast of North America, being at the nearest seventy-five miles distant from it, and receding still further, in proportion to its progress. Its breadth is about forty-five miles, and its rapidity is about four miles in an hour. The banks of Newfoundland appear to form the limits of its advancement towards the north; and it diverges from thence, passing through the Azores to the southward, until its impulse becomes gradually lost. Retaining a great portion of the heat which it imbibed in the tropical climate, on its arrival at the banks of Newfoundland, it is from fifteen to twenty degrees of Fahrenheit, warmer than the water on each side of it, from which it differs not only in this respect, but in darkness of colour and greater depth of soundings. Whenever, therefore, the degree of tempera-

ture in the atmosphere becomes colder than that of those waters, a vapour will necessarily arise from them, which is condensed, and frequently covers these situations with a moist and thick air.

The cod-fish, whose abundance in these latitudes has afforded for a series of years an essential object of commercial enterprise, is esteemed much more delicate than that found in the northern seas of Europe, although inferior to it in whiteness. The length of this fish usually exceeds not three feet, and the conformation of its organs is such, as to render it indifferent with regard to the selection of its aliment. The voracity of its appetite prompts it indiscriminately to swallow every substance which it is capable of gorging; and even glass and iron have been found in the stomach of this fish, which by inverting itself, has the power of becoming disburthened of its indigestible contents.

The fishermen arrange themselves along the side of the vessel, each person being provided with lines and hooks. When a fish is caught, its tongue is immediately cut out, and it is delivered to a person, in whose hands it having undergone a certain degree of preparation, is dropped through a hatchway between decks, where part of the back bone is taken out, and the cod is thrown in this state, through a second hatchway into the hold, to be

salted. When a quantity of fish, sufficient to fill one of the vessels, is caught and salted, she sails from the banks to the island, where, discharging her cargo, she returns to her station, and, in the course of the season, thus renews four or five different freights.

The cod-fish is dried on the island, and larger vessels arrive from England, to convey it from thence to the European markets. In packing the fish in bulk, in the hold of the vessel, much care and attention are requisite ; and the greatest precautions are used in loading, to preserve them from exposure to the moisture of the atmosphere, by spreading sails and cloths over the boats in which they are contained, and over those fish already in the vessel, if the smallest degree of dampness in the air be observable. A person, denominated *culler* or inspector, attends the loading of each vessel, in order to see that no fish which is not perfectly cured, be introduced into the cargo, which otherwise might soon become damaged.

The price of fish cured at Newfoundland, is generally fifteen shillings the quintal, and it neats in Europe about twenty shillings. The expence of its freight to the coast of Spain, is two shillings and sixpence, and to Leghorn three shillings, the quintal.

The dried fish, sent to the West Indies, is packed in casks, and is inferior in quality to that carried to Europe. The fish which is salted without being dried, is termed

Core-fish, or green cod. A vessel with twelve men, from the middle of April to July, must catch, salt, and bring into port, ten thousand fish, otherwise the owners will be excluded from all claim to the established bounty. The same crew, however, usually procures, during the season, more than double that quantity.

The merchants of England who are concerned in these fisheries, supply the fishermen upon credit with every article of which they may be in want, and are repaid at the fall of the year, with the produce of their industry. Several hundred thousand pounds are thus annually advanced, in speculation, on an object of commerce, before it is extracted from the bosom of the ocean.

About four hundred ships, amounting to thirty-six thousand tons burthen; two thousand fishing shallops, of twenty thousand tons, and twenty thousand men, are, in times of tranquillity, usually employed every year in this fishery. About six hundred thousand quintals of fish are annually taken, which, upon an average of seven years, are worth, at the island, fifteen shillings per quintal. These, with the other amounts, consisting of salmon, cod-oil, seal-oil, and furs, exceed annually half a million sterling. Of twenty thousand men from Great Britain and Ireland, employed in that fishery, eight thousand necessarily continued, when their country was not at war, on the island all the winter. Several thousand still remain

there during that season, and are occupied in repairing or building boats and small vessels, or in erecting the scaffolds for drying fish. These are not properly seafaring men, and are distinguished by the denomination of *planters*..

Newfoundland, which, in point of magnitude, may be classed among islands of the first extent, is, in fertility of soil, as far as it has hitherto been explored, much inferior to any of similar dimensions. Whether it ever had native inhabitants has not been fully ascertained, and its sterility, were it even as real as is supposed, is not a sufficient reason for asserting that it never had any ; as the natives of America, in general, derive their subsistence, not from the vegetable productions of the soil, but from fishing and the chase. The Eskimaux are the only people who have been found there, and they are by no means to be accounted aborigines of the country. The neighbouring territory of Labrador is their native land, where they pass the greatest part of the year ; and, unattached to any particular spot, wander over an immense tract of desert and inhospitable wilds, although their numbers, if collected, would scarcely people two or three villages. Throughout this prodigious and dreary expanse of region, called by the Spaniards Labrador, and by the French, New Brittany, which is bounded by the river Saint Lawrence and the North Sea, and also by the coasts of Newfoundland, no savages, the

Eskimaux excepted, are to be met with. They are likewise found at a considerable distance from Hudson's Bay, on rivers which flow from the westward.

Their name is said to be derived from a word in the Abinaquis language, *Esquimantsic*, importing, an eater of raw flesh; they being the only people known in North America, who use their food in that state. They are likewise the only savages who permit their beards to grow. They assume the appellation of *Keralite*, or *men*. They are of a midling stature, generally robust, lusty, and of a brown colour. The oil of the whale, and that of the sea-cow and porpus, constitutes the most essential part of their food, contributing to defend the stomach from the penetrating effects of cold.

The nature of their aliment imparts to their constitution that fulness, and to their complexion that greasy sallowness for which they are remarked. Their head is large in proportion, and their face round and flat; their lips are thick; their eyes dark, small and sparkling, but inexpressive; their nose is flat; their hair black, long, and lank; their shoulders are large; and their feet uncommonly small. They are disposed to be lively, are subtile, cunning, addicted to theft, irritable, but easily intimidated; and incapable of long entertaining, or concealing, sentiments of hatred or revenge. They are the only people on the continent of America, who, in character or

appearance, exhibit the smallest resemblance to the inhabitants of the northern parts of Europe.

Their covering is made of the skins of seals, or of wild animals, or of those of the land and sea fowls which frequent their territory, and which they have acquired the art of sewing together. A species of capuchin, or coat with a hood, fitted closely to the body, and descending to the middle of the thigh, forms a principal part of their dress. They wear also trowsers of the same materials, drawn together before and behind with a cord. Several pairs of socks, with boots, are worn by both sexes, to defend the legs and feet from the penetrating cold. The dress of the women is distinguished from that of the men by a tail, which falls a considerable way down, by their capuchins being much larger towards the shoulders, in order to cover their children, when they wish to carry them on their backs; and by their boots being much wider, and ornamented with whalebone. In these they frequently place their infants for safety, and for warmth. Some of the men wear shirts made of bladders of the sea-calf, sewed together with a needle of bone, the thread being formed of the nerves of animals, minutely divided.

They are averse to industry or exertion, and seldom give themselves the trouble of constructing wigwams, or huts. The warmth of their stomach, and the nature of their cloathing, producing a sufficient degree of heat, they

are satisfied with the shelter afforded by tents made of hides loosely thrown together, by the rocky caverns of the sea-coast, or by placing themselves to the leeward of a bank of snow. In the caverns they sometimes make use of a lamp, formed of a large hollow bone, containing a quantity of oil; but this is only for the convenience of procuring light, as they appear to be ignorant of the application of fire to culinary purposes. The air proceeding from their lungs is so mephitical and offensive, that two or more of them shut up in a small and close apartment, and thus excluded from free air, would probably not long survive. It is only of late years that spirituous liquors have been introduced among them; and, notwithstanding the severe cold of their climate, a quantity of rum remained for a considerable time in the possession of one of their chiefs, before any of these natives would hazard an experiment of its effects. Fortunate had it been for them if they still continued in ignorance of that liquor, which has proved so baneful to a great portion of the uncivilized inhabitants of America!

The instruments which they use for the chase, and in fishing, are constructed with much neatness and ingenuity. Their bows are composed of three pieces of pine, or larch-tree, which being neither strong nor very elastic, these defects are remedied by fortifying them behind with a band of deer's tendons, which, when wetted, contract, and

at once communicate elasticity and force. Ever since they have been visited by Europeans, they have given a preference to the fusil; and whenever that instrument can be procured, the bow falls into disuse.

Like all other men in the savage state, they treat their wives with great coldness and neglect; but their affection towards their offspring is lively and tender. Their language is guttural, and contains but few words; so that they express new ideas, or give names to novel objects, by a combination of terms, indicative of the qualities of the things which they wish to describe.

Their ideas of religion are obscure and contracted. They acknowledge two invisible essences; the one, they represent as the origin of good; the other, to whom they pay the most frequent homage, as that of every species of evil.

Their canoes are formed with no inconsiderable degree of art, and much industry appears be be bestowed on their construction. They are pointed at each extremity, and are covered with the skins of sea-animals. In the upper part, or deck, is an aperture with a bag affixed to it, through which the savage introduces his body, and tying its mouth around his waist, and taking in his hands, a paddle which he uses alternately on each side, he shoots through the waves, by which he is tossed and buffeted, whilst the water is unable to penetrate the slender vessel in which he rides.

Newfoundland extends in the form of a triangle, about

a hundred leagues from east to west, and a hundred and twenty-five from north to south; being situated between forty-six and fifty-two degrees of north latitude. John Gabato, a Venetian, was its first discoverer, under the patronage of king Henry the Seventh of England. No advantage was derived from thence, until the lapse of a period of near forty years. Cape Race, and Cape Ray, are the two promontories which present themselves to mariners sailing for the river Saint Lawrence. Eighteen leagues to the westward of the first, appears cape Saint Mary, which forms the entrance of the bay of Placentia towards the east. This bay is sixteen leagues in breadth, and twenty in depth. Towards its head is the harbour, capable of containing in safety one hundred and fifty vessels, and defended by a fort called Saint Louis. The French were the first Europeans who frequented this situation. Between Placentia and Cape Ray, the western point of the island, two other bays, of considerable extent, penetrate some distance into the country. They are distinguished by the appellations of Fortune and Despair. No settlements have yet been made on their coasts, and they are but little frequented. Cape Ray, together with the island of Saint Paul, about fifteen leagues distant from it, forms the entrance into the gulph of Saint Lawrence; and vessels sailing thither, must pass, in clear weather, in sight of the one, or of the other. Besides the bays already

noticed, this island contains a variety of others, particularly on the eastern coast, among which two are remarkable for their extent; those of Trinity and Conception. Near the latter is the harbour of Saint John, which is secure and well fortified.

Bordered by dark and gloomy rocks, which exhibit a barren, inhospitable appearance, the country, on a nearer view of its soil, belies not the character of its rude uninviting features, which, amid their nakedness, display neither grandeur nor sublimity. At a league distant from the entrance of Saint John's harbour, no opening in the coast is discernible. A white tower, raised on a precipitous eminence, seems rather intended as a mark to warn vessels of the danger of approaching the rocky shore, than as a beacon to conduct them to a place of safety. On a nearer examination of it, its strength becomes apparent, and no hostile vessel can enter, with impunity, the narrow chasm beneath. This structure, situated on a part of the precipice, on the south side of the entrance of Saint John, is named Fort Amherst. The inlet, called the Narrows, exceeds not five hundred feet in width. On each side, towards the north, the rocks rise to the altitude of four hundred feet; but on the south shore, they are of less elevation.

Heath, juniper, and wild spruce, the offspring of sterility, sparingly cover the rocky surface. The appearance

of the harbour and its environs, is, nevertheless, wild and picturesque. In proceeding further up the inlet, a battery, called South Fort, is placed on the left; and another, named Chain-rock, on the right. At a considerable elevation above these, several little forts are seen. A rock, in the form of a cone, is crowned with a battery, constructed under the direction of the late Sir James Wallace, who, in 1796, was vice-admiral on the station, and governor of the island; and with a fifty-gun ship, two frigates, and two sloops of sixteen guns each, made a gallant and successful defence against the attacks of Admiral Richery, whose force consisted of seven ships of the line, and three frigates.

Viewed from the summit of this eminence, the town, and the scaffolds on which the fish are placed to dry, present a singular appearance. These scaffolds are generally forty feet high, and consist of several stages, on the rafters of each of which a quantity of brushwood is placed. They are sufficiently strong to support the weight of the green fish, and also, occasionally, of one or two men. These are erected in every situation, as well in the vallies, as on the margins of the perpendicular rocks.

The town of Saint John borders on the basin, and its situation affords no attractions, except to those whom interest or necessity induces to consult the advantage, rather than the pleasure, arising from diversity of local situation.

It contains a church and two chapels, one for the catholic religion, the others for persons of the methodist-persuasion; also a court-house, and a custom-house.

An officer of the customs was, until lately, placed at the head of the law department, and decided not only in civil, but in criminal causes. A gentleman who has been bred to the bar, at present fills the situation of judge of the island. The buildings are mean, and the streets narrow and dirty. Fort Townshend is placed above the town, and contains the house allotted for the governor, with the store-houses and magazines, which form a square. From hence, the entrance, the harbour, the narrows sunk between elevated precipices; and the water, covered with small vessels, passing and re-passing, form a lively and busy scene; these, together with the town, and the adjacent country, diversified by lakes with verdant borders, exhibit, in the midst of a barren wild, a combination which may, for a short period, afford the charms of novelty.

Over a place called the barrens, is a road which leads from Fort Townshend to Fort William, commanding the narrows and the harbour. With the latter, Signal-hill, from whence the approach of ships is announced, communicates. Its perpendicular height from the sea, is four hundred and four feet; and it contains, on its summit, two ponds, affording excellent water.

The bay of Bulls lies about twenty-eight miles from Saint John's. The internal parts of the island have never yet been explored by the English. A very small portion of land is at present cultivated, as neither the soil nor climate are favourable to productions necessary for the support of life. The duration of summer is too short; and no kind of grain has sufficient time to arrive at maturity. The winter breaks up in May; and, until the end of September, the air is temperate, during which the progress of vegetation is sufficiently rapid. Hay and grass are here of a very indifferent quality. The land is so sparingly covered with soil, that much labour and expence are necessary to produce a crop, which but poorly recompences the industry of the husbandman. The quantity of ground used for the purposes of cultivation, is therefore very small; and the prohibition of the parent state against attempts to colonize, are, by the sterile nature of the country, rendered almost unnecessary. The fishermen are, in times of warfare, enjoined to return to England; and the merchant is authorized, to retain from the wages of each person in his employ, a certain proportion as a provision, in case of incapacity from poverty or sickness, for any individual to return to his country. By this prudent regulation, no seaman, thus engaged, can be lost to the service of the state.

The English and French long shared between them, the

privilege of drying their fish on the coasts of this island ; the latter occupying the southern and northern parts, and the former the eastern shores. The interior is composed of mountains, covered with woods of an indifferent quality. The animals found here, are foxes, porcupines, hares, squirrels, lynxes, otters, beavers, wolves, and bears. The chace is difficult, and unattended with profit. The land and water-fowl are, partridges, snipes, woodcocks, falcons, geese, ducks, and penguins. In the bays and rivers are found fish of various kinds, such as salmon, eels, herring, mackarel, plaice, trout, and almost every description of shell-fish.

The territory which was requisite to prepare the cod-fish, belonged at first, to any person who took possession ; and from this inconvenience, a source of frequent discord arose. The property of that part of the coast, of which he made choice, was at length, by the interference of government, secured to each fisherman. By this judicious arrangement, expeditions thither were multiplied so greatly, that in 1615, vessels from the British dominions, equal in all to fifteen thousand tons, were employed in the fishery. The value of this island soon became apparent, not only as a source of national wealth, arising from the exchange of fish for the various productions and luxuries, which the southern parts of Europe afford, but what is still of greater importance, as a principal nursery for the navy.

The property of this island was, by the peace of Utrecht, confirmed to Great Britain; and the subjects of France preserved only the right of fishing from cape Bonavista northwards, and to cape Rich on the opposite side. This line of demarcation was afterwards altered, and placed at cape Ray, on the western side of the island.

The floating masses of ice, which pass in the vicinity of the eastern coast, and sometimes enter the straits of Belisle, in the summer months, exhibit to mariners an awful and singular spectacle. These enormous mounds, the accumulated operation of cold for a series of years, in the arctic regions, are detached from the coasts near Hudson's Bay, and Davis's Straits, by storms, and other causes. They sometimes exceed an hundred and forty feet in altitude; and their basis beneath the sea, usually doubles those dimensions. Rivulets of fresh water, produced by their gradual dissolution, distil from their summits. We had an opportunity of viewing three of these stupendous piles by the light of the moon, whose rays, reflected in various directions, from their glassy surface, produced an effect no less pleasing than novel. They become either stranded in shallow water, until they are melted down, or grow so porous, that they subside under the surface of the ocean. In fogs, and even in the gloom of night, they are discoverable at some distance, by the cold which they emit, and by their whiteness and effulgence.

The islands of Saint Peter's and of Miquelon, are nothing else than barren rocks, not far from the southern coast of Newfoundland. They were ceded to the French by the treaty of 1763, on condition that no fortifications should be erected, nor more than fifty soldiers kept on them to enforce the police. The former possesses a harbour, capable of containing thirty small vessels. They were inhabited, in times of peace, by a few Frenchmen, for the purpose of carrying on the fishery.

The geographical position of Cape Breton, was, many years ago, ascertained with tolerable accuracy. A narrow passage of about four leagues in length, and scarcely half a league in breadth, named the gut of Canso, separates it from the eastern extremity of the peninsula of Halifax or Nova Scotia. It forms, with the islands of Newfoundland and Saint Paul, the boundaries of the entrance into the gulph of Saint Lawrence. Its figure is very irregular, and it is so intersected by bays and small rivers, that the two principal parts join, only by a neck of not more than eight hundred paces wide. The soil, in many places swampy, and covered with light moss, is, generally, ill adapted for cultivation. On the lands towards the south side, corn, hemp, and flax, are raised. Coal-mines, and likewise plaster of Paris, are here found.

All the harbours are, on the east, open to the sea; the north coast is elevated, and almost inaccessible. The har-

bour of Louisbourg, once among the finest in North America, is on the eastern coast, and extends into the country four leagues, in a winding direction, containing good anchorage, and every where at least seven fathoms of water. The entrance, between two small islands, is four hundred yards wide; and by means of Cape Lorembec in its vicinity, is discoverable at sea for a considerable distance. On the fortifications of this harbour, the French expended near a million and a half pounds sterling.

This island, denominated by the French *Ile Royale*, contained, while in their possession, upwards of four thousand inhabitants, whose industry was almost wholly applied to the fisheries; as, from the sterility of the soil, neither agriculture nor breeding of cattle could succeed to any extent, and from the paucity of wild animals, peltry could never become an object of commerce. The island is about thirty-six leagues in length, and twenty-two in its greatest breadth. It is environed by rocks; and the climate, although sufficiently healthy, is not agreeable, being subject to frequent and thick fogs. It was conquered in 1758, by the British forces under General Wolfe. The inhabitants are at present not numerous; and the officer who commands the troops, usually a brigadier-general, in time of war, is invested also with the powers of civil governor. His residence is at Sidney, the capital.

The subjects upon which I have now so long dwelt, are,

I am afraid, from their barrenness, but little interesting; nor can I, at present, indulge the hope of affording information or entertainment which will appear much more gratifying. Of rude, uncultivated regions, there can be few descriptions but such as are merely geographical, or relating to natives, equally unimproved with the wilds and forests which they traverse or inhabit.

Canada presents few objects which can occupy the enquiries of an antiquarian; and it contains, perhaps, in less variety than many other portions of the globe, productions which can recompence the researches of the naturalist. Its lakes and rivers, it is true, are the vast and principal objects which are calculated to inspire wonder and gratification. The immense volumes, the irresistible weight and velocity of the latter, tearing through and overpowering the obstacles opposed to their course, by the rugged and unequal territories amid which they roll, produce falls and cataracts of singular sublimity, and of commanding beauty; these, although in some degree similar in effect, are, notwithstanding, inexhaustible in variety.

CHAPTER III.

GULPH OF SAINT LAWRENCE—PRINCE EDWARD'S ISLAND—BIRD ISLES—CHALEUR'S BAY; ITS COMMERCE, AND THAT OF GASPE'—STATE OF AGRICULTURE—ROUTE TO THE CAPITAL—PERFORATED ROCK—THE GANET—MOUTH OF THE GREAT RIVER—ANTICOSTI—WILD ASPECT PRESENTED BY THE COASTS ON EITHER SIDE THE RIVER—RIVER SAGUENAY—WATERFAL—BOLDNESS OF SHORES—IMMENSE DEPTH—KING'S POSTS—ACCOUNT OF THE MOUNTAINEERS—MALBAY—COUDRES—SAINT PAUL'S BAY—CAMOURASCA—ISLAND OF ORLEANS.

THE Gulph of Saint Lawrence, as well as the great river which there disembogues its waters, received its name from Jacques Cartier, who in 1535 ascended as far as Montreal. Its boundaries are the coasts of Labrador, Nova Scotia, Cape Breton, and Newfoundland. The island of Saint John, whose name is now changed to that of Prince Edward's island, was first settled by Acadians, in 1749, and their number soon amounted to three thousand. When the English took possession of it, the former people retired to the continent. Its present condition is flourishing, and its inhabitants amount to about seven thousand. The soil, which is level, is in general fertile, is watered by rivulets and springs, is diversified with meadows for pasture, and with situations which would be well

adapted for the culture of grain, were it not, that from the frequency of fogs, that article is liable to be destroyed by mildew. The climate is likewise subject to dry weather, when insects and vermin, hostile to vegetable productions, are abundantly propagated. The island is upwards of an hundred and ten miles in length, and its greatest breadth does not much exceed nine. It bends in the form of a crescent, each extremity terminating in a sharp point. The harbours are commodious and safe. Cod-fish is found in great plenty all around its coasts. A channel, five leagues in width, separates it from the continent; and Green Bay, nearly opposite the center of the island, enters the country more than four leagues, forming, with the bay of Fundy, the isthmus, whose breadth is about five leagues, that connects the peninsula of Nova Scotia with the main land. At the bottom of Green-bay the French had some settlements, and a small fort. Several families are now established on that part of the coast, and a road of communication from Pictou to Halifax, has lately been opened.

Not far from the entrance of the gulph, and somewhat to the northwards, the Magdalen isles, which are seven in number, and of small extent, present themselves in a cluster. They are inhabited by a few families, whose principal support is derived from fishing. The Bird isles, situated in the gulph, consist of two rocks, elevated above the water, upwards of an hundred feet; their flattened

summits, whose circumference exceeds not, each, three hundred paces, exhibit a resplendent whiteness, produced by the quantities of ordure, with which they are covered, from immense flocks of birds, which, in summer, take possession of the apertures in their perpendicular cliffs, where they form their nests and produce their young. When alarmed, they hover above the rocks, and overshadow their tops by their numbers. The abundance of their eggs affords to the inhabitants of the neighbouring coast, a material supply of food.

A vast inlet, penetrating into the country for a great many leagues to the westward, is called the bay of Chaleurs, which being advantageously placed for carrying on fisheries, has, on its borders, a considerable number of inhabitants. Jacques Cartier, in 1534, sailed into this bay, and from the heat which he there experienced in the middle of summer, gave it the name which it still retains. Notwithstanding the more northerly situation of this bay, the cold is not so intense here as at Quebec, being moderated by the sea air. The depth of snow in the woods, during the winter season, is from six to eight feet; but varying according to the different situations, and the degrees of severity in the weather. It is not before the beginning of May, that the influence of the sun upon vegetation is here materially felt; nor is it before that time, that the woods are entirely cleared of snow.

It may be observed as a curious circumstance, that for six, eight, and ten leagues from the shores of this bay, in proceeding into the woods, travellers and huntsmen frequently meet with spots of about two or three acres in surface, entirely bare, and yet surrounded with seven or eight feet depth of snow, which, in times of bad weather, melts as it falls, both on those situations, and on the trees, to which they afford growth. Those spots, in their relative position to the head of the bay, extend from east to west, being usually found in that direction; and their denudation of snow may probably be occasioned by subterraneous heat, which approaching nearer to the surface of the ground, produces the effect which has been described.

Neither minerals, nor mineral waters, have yet been discovered in this district. The timber which grows here consists of spruce fir, white and black birch, beech, elm, and oak, which being porous, is of little value.

The island of Bonaventure, is about a league from the north shore of the entrance into the bay, and a small number of persons winter on it, for no other purpose than to retain possession of their fisheries. About twenty-one leagues up the bay, there is a parish of the same name with the island.

Cod-fish, salmon, and herrings, are the only productions of commerce derived from the bays of Gaspé and Chaleurs. Ship-building has of late years been here tried with suc-

cess ; but whether or not it will answer in time of peace, is uncertain. There are about three hundred families settled all along the coast of the district of Gaspé, who are chiefly of the Roman Catholic religion, and whose sole occupation is fishing. The produce of their industry is transported to foreign markets, in from eight to ten square-rigged vessels, besides smaller craft.

The natives of this district are of the Micmac tribe. A few Malicites come thither at times, from the river Saint John and Madawaska. Upon the banks of the river Ristigouche, which empties itself into the bay of Chaleurs, and about eight leagues from its mouth, there is a church, and an Indian village. At Tracadigash, and at the settlement of Bonaventure, there are likewise churches, besides some chapels in the smaller settlements, where the ecclesiastical functions are performed by two, and sometimes by three missionaries.

Agriculture is uncommonly neglected, and in an entire state of infancy. It has of late years been somewhat more attended to than formerly, because the want of salt, an article ever scarce in those parts in time of war, and other causes, gave to the fisheries a temporary check, and obliged the inhabitants to secure the means of subsisting their families, by tillage and husbandry. But, it is probable they will, as they have ever done, resume the hook and line, as soon as they have a prospect of encouragement in that their favourite pursuit.

The roads of intercourse between the adjoining settlements are very indifferent; but, wherever there is any interruption, by extensive, unsettled parts of the coast, the traveller must have recourse to water communication.

Three different routes are pursued by those whom business obliges to travel to Quebec, in the winter season. One of these is by the coast of the Saint Lawrence, the other two by the river Ristigouche. In adopting the second, the traveller ascends that river about twelve leagues, until he reaches the Matapediach, which empties itself therein, and whose course he traces upwards to a lake of the same name, from whence it derives its source; hence he continues in the same direction, about ten leagues along an Indian path, to the river Mitis, flowing into the Saint Lawrence. The third route is, by ascending the Ristigouche, to near its source, as far as a brook, called by the natives Wagancitz; and from thence, by crossing the land to the Saint John, about eight leagues above the great falls; by following this river, until its junction with the Madawaska, and the latter river to lake Tamiscuata; and by proceeding along that lake to the *grande partage*, or road opened by the late General Haldimand, through which, after walking about thirty miles, the traveller gains the river Saint Lawrence, near the *riviere des Caps*, two leagues and a half below the parish of Camourasca. The first of these routes is the longest, and may be com-

puted, from the middle of Chaleurs bay, at about one hundred and forty leagues to Quebec. The two latter must be nearly equal; it would appear, however, from the courses, that the road by Matapediach, must be somewhat shorter than the other. The distance of either, from Carlisle, in the middle of the bay, to Quebec, does not exceed one hundred and twenty leagues.

The only object in this part of the country, which may be considered as a natural curiosity, is the rock called Percé, perforated in three places in the form of arches, through the central and largest of which, a boat with sails set, may pass with great facility. This rock, which, at a distance exhibits the appearance of an aqueduct in ruins, rises to the height of nearly two hundred feet. Its length, which is at present four hundred yards, must have been once much greater, as it has evidently been wasted by the sea, and by the frequent impulse of storms.

The shell-fish procured, in the month of August, from the rivers, and from their mouths near the coast, in the vicinity of Chaleurs bay, are so highly impregnated with a poisonous quality, as to occasion almost instantaneous death to those who eat them. The cause of this circumstance remains yet to be ascertained. Not only in the district of Gaspé, but in most settlements on the Gulph of Saint Lawrence, similar effects have been experienced. The period of the year has apparently no other share in

producing them, than by the reduction of the quantity of waters which generally takes place in summer. The greater the diminution of waters, the stronger, of course, becomes the proportion of poisonous matter with which these waters are endowed; and this being imbibed, especially during ebb tides, by the shell-fish, they are thus productive of consequences, fatal to those who use them as an article of food.

Not only the Bird isles, already described, but the island of Bonaventure, and Percé rock, abound in summer with ganets, which, in prodigious flocks, arrive early in May from the southward. They lay and hatch their eggs, not only on those islands, but on various parts of the coast, where adventurous sportsmen, often with considerable risque, ascend and plunder their nests, amid the steep and threatening cliffs. These birds, at that period very fierce, will sometimes, by the severity of their bite, directed chiefly at the eyes of the despoiler, force him to retreat.

The bay of Gaspé is more than two leagues in depth, and its coasts are inhabited by settlers engaged in the fisheries.

The Gulph of Saint Lawrence is about eighty leagues in length; and when the winds and currents are favourable, its passage does not usually exceed twenty-four hours. The Saint Lawrence is one of the greatest, most noble, and beautiful rivers, and, at the same time, the furthest

navigable for vessels of a large size, of any in the universe. From its mouth to the harbour of Quebec, the distance is one hundred and twenty leagues ; and vessels from Europe ascend to Montreal, which is sixty leagues higher up its course.

Cape Rosiers, at a small distance to the northwards of the point of Gaspé, is properly the place which limits the farthest extent of this gigantic river ; and it is from thence that the breadth of its mouth, which is ninety miles, must be estimated. They who pretend that its width is one hundred and twenty miles, measure it apparently from the eastern extremity of Gaspé. The mouth of the Saint Lawrence is separated into two channels, by the island of Anticosti, extending from south east to north west, about a hundred and twenty miles, and in its utmost breadth about thirty miles. The north channel is little frequented, although safe and of great depth ; it is much narrower than the south channel, which is near sixteen leagues wide at its entrance. The island is of little value ; the wood which grows upon it is small, the soil is barren, and it possesses not a single harbour where a vessel may with safety enter. The country is flat towards the coasts, rising a little in the centre, but no where into hills. Flat rocks extend at each extremity, a to considerable distance from the shores, rendering the approach hazardous. A few savages sometimes winter there, for the purpose of the chace. On

passing this island, the land becomes visible on both sides of the river.

The mountains of Notre Dame and Mont Louis, behind which the former are placed, are part of a chain on the south side of the river, the vallies between which are occasionally frequented by savages The environs of Mont Louis afford lands fit for cultivation, and some families are there settled. On the northern and opposite coast of the river, the bay of seven islands is placed, where a fleet under the command of Admiral Walker was, in 1711, lost on an expedition against Quebec. An eminence, named *La pointe de Mont Pelée*, is situated seventeen leagues to the south west of these islands. Along the extent of the north coast, the river *Moisie*, and several other considerable streams, roll down to the Saint Lawrence, the tribute of their waters.

Cape Chatte, on the south shore, exhibits a bold appearance; between this and a point on the north coast, which terminates the bald mountains, the channel of the river becomes considerably contracted.

Two conical elevations, upon a mountain, called *Les Mammelles de Matane*, about two leagues distant from the coast, present themselves to view. No country can exhibit a more wild aspect than that which here extends on either side the river. Stunted trees, rocks, and sand, compose the inhospitable and desolate territory, which

cannot boast of an acre of soil capable of yielding any useful production. Birds and wild animals are, indeed, here to be found; but the chace is practicable only to savages.

The shoal of Maniagoagan advances from the north shore, upwards of two leagues into the river. It receives its appellation from a stream which has its source in the territory of Labrador, and here discharges itself into the Saint Lawrence. This considerable body of water is also called the Black-river. Towards the east there is a bay of the same name as the shoal, and on the west the bay of Outardes.

The small island of Saint Barnaby is placed near the south shore, opposite to an inconsiderable river, upon the banks of which is a settlement called Rimouski. From Mont Louis to this island, the distance is forty leagues, throughout which, there is neither on the south or the north shore, any station which can have the merit of being termed a harbour; and some anchoring places only present themselves; these are principally on the north shore, and are distinguished by the names of port La Croix, the river Saint Marguerite, the cove of Trinity, the port of Saint Nicholas, and the bay of Maniagoagan, already mentioned. In proceeding further up, Cape Original, a promontory of a rugged and singular form, attracts the eye, in whose vicinity is the isle of Bique, well known to

navigators for its excellent harbour, and as being the place at which pilots are landed from vessels proceeding down the river. To the southwards of the cape, the stream of Trois Pistoles empties itself into the Saint Lawrence, and the isle of Basque lies opposite to its mouth.

A considerable number of rivers flowing through long channels from the northwards, pour their waters into the Saint Lawrence. The chief of these is the Saguenay, drawing its source from lake Saint John, and running to the eastward through a mountainous and barren region. The lake is about thirty leagues in circuit, and its borders, as well as the surrounding country, are covered with pine trees of a small growth. The Saguenay, which sweeps along a prodigious body of waters, is interrupted in its course by abrupt precipices, over which it dashes its foaming current; and, being bounded by banks of great elevation, is remarkable for the depth and impetuosity of its flood, long before it mingles with the great river. The fall, which is about fifty feet in altitude, is ninety miles distant from the mouth of the river, and is chiefly striking, for the immense sheet of water, which is perpetually broken in its rugged course, and assumes a resplendent whiteness. When viewed from below, the scene is stupendous and terrific. The incessant and deafening roar of the rolling torrents of foam, and the irresistible violence and fury with which the river hastens down its descent, tend

to produce on the mind of the spectator an impression awfully grand. The picturesque and rudely wild forms of the lofty banks, exhibit a gloomy contrast to the lively splendour of the cataract.

The impetuous torrent of the Saguenay, when the tide is low, is sensibly felt in the Saint Lawrence, which, for a distance of many miles, is obliged to yield to its impulse; and vessels apparently going their course, have thereby been carried sidelong in a different direction.

Besides the fall now described, this river is broken into several rapids or cataracts of lesser height. In many places the banks are rugged and steep, and at intervals, consist of almost perpendicular cliffs of astonishing elevation, some rising to a thousand, and some to six or seven hundred feet. The length of the course of this river is a hundred and fifty miles; its breadth is generally near three miles, except near its mouth, where it contracts to one-third of that extent. An attempt has been made, in the centre of its mouth, to sound the depth with five hundred fathoms of line, but no bottom was found. A mile and an half higher up from thence, the depth has been ascertained at one hundred and thirty-eight fathoms; and sixty miles further, in ascending the course of the river, the depth is near sixty fathoms.

Notwithstanding its immense breadth, and the stupendous elevation of its rocky shores, the course of this river

is rendered extremely crooked, by points of land which appear to interlock each other; and thus prolong its navigation. The tide ascends to the peninsula of Chicoutami, and, intercepted in its retreat, by these frequent promontories, is much later in its ebb, than that of the Saint Lawrence. The level of the former river, becomes thus, many feet higher than that of the latter, into whose bosom it rushes, with the boundless impetuosity already remarked.

On the north side of the mouth of the Saguenay, is the harbour of Tadoussac, capable of affording shelter and anchorage, for a number of vessels of a large size. Previous to the establishment of a colony in Canada, this place was frequented, for the purpose of carrying on the fur trade. Several small settlements belonging to government, are placed along the northern coast of the Saint Lawrence. These are usually known by the appellation of the *King's Posts*, and are let, for a term of years, to commercial people, for the design of conducting a traffic for peltry with the savages, and also for the salmon, whale, seal, and porpus fisheries. Their several names are, Tadoussac, Chicoutami, seventy-five miles up the Saguenay; a post on Lake Saint John, Ashuabmanchuan, Mistashni, les Isles de Jeremie on the sea, Seven Islands, and Point De-Monts. At these various situations, previous to the year 1802, about eighty Canadians were employed in hunting,

and purchasing furs from the Indians in winter, and, during summer, in the salmon fishery, for which the river Moisie, eighteen miles below Seven Islands, affords a most productive field.

Chicoutami is the only situation on the Saguenay, where the soil is fertile, and abounds with timber of an excellent growth. It has been found by experiment, that grain will ripen much sooner there than at Quebec, although placed considerably to the northwards of that city. The vicinity of the sea, to the former, disarms the winter of a portion of its severity, and produces an earlier spring.

The natives in possession of the tract of country around Lake Saint John, and on the borders of the Saguenay, are named Mountaineers, and are descended from the Algonquins. They are neither so tall, nor so well formed, as the savages that range throughout the north-west country, and are also strangers to that sanguinary ferocity, by which many of the Indian tribes are characterized. They are remarkable for the mildness, and gentleness of their manners, and are never known to use an offensive weapon against each other, or to kill, or wound, any person whatever. Nor can the effects of spirituous liquors, so baneful to other natives, excite them to cruelty, or vindictive passion. Their behaviour is uniformly orderly and decent; their mode of dress is the same as that which now prevails, among the other savages who have intercourse

with Europeans ; and the stuffs, and silks, for which they exchange their furs, are often rich and costly.

Their whole number is about thirteen hundred ; nearly one-half being converted to the Christian faith, and the other half being Pagans. A missionary sent from Quebec, resides among them ; and chapels, where divine service is performed, are erected at the principal posts. Repeated efforts, and much persuasion have been used, to prevail on these savages to cultivate the lands, and to plant Indian corn, or potatoes. They have not, however, been able to overcome their propensity to indolence, or their utter aversion and abhorrence to that species of labour. They appeared to relish these articles of food, when offered, and would eat them with avidity, if accompanied with a little grease ; yet, even the incitement of reward, superadded to the prospect of a constant and wholesome supply of nourishment, failed in producing any inclination for industry.

Although, like other tibes in a barbarous state, each individual is solely dependent, for support and defence, on the strength of his own arm, and the resolution of his mind ; they are, notwithstanding, so pusillanimous, that at the appearance of an enemy, however small in numbers, they betake themselves to flight, and retire for safety into the woods.

The furs procured in this quarter, are, in general, of a superior quality ; and great attention is bestowed by the

hunters, in scraping and cleaning the parchments. These posts, which produced to government a rent of no more than four hundred pounds a year, have lately been let on a lease of thirty years, to the North-west Company, a society of merchants at Montreal, for the yearly rent of one thousand and twenty-five pounds.

Near the island of Bique, the settlements on the south coast of the Saint Lawrence may be said to commence. Green Island, about seven leagues higher in ascending the river, exhibits a pleasing appearance, and affords luxuriant pasturage for a number of cattle. Some of the low grounds on the island, and on the continental shore, being frequently overflown by the salt water, during high tides, are clothed with herbage. The river in this part, abounding in shoals, there is a channel, or traverse on the north side of Green Island, where, at low tide, the current descends with rapidity, and through which vessels hold their course. The coast on the south shore, from hence, upwards, assumes a flat appearance, the hills rising at some distance from the river. The north coast, although of no great elevation, is abrupt, rocky, and sterile, for an extent of several leagues; and the islands towards that side, exhibit a like desolate character.

Between Point *à l'Aigle*, a mountainous promontory on the north coast, and a congeries of other eminences called *les Eboulements*, there is a considerable settlement situated

at the bottom of an inlet, which recedes about three miles from the great river, and is called Mal-bay. Here the land is cultivated and inhabited for an extent of six miles, in a rich and romantic valley, through which a river, abounding in salmon and trout, winds its course into the bay. The soil, which consists of a black mould upon sand, is fertile; and the inhabitants, whose communication with other settled parts of the country is not frequent, possess, within their own limits, an abundance of the necessaries of life.

Cattle, sheep, some horses, wheat, oats, and boards, are exported from hence to Quebec. This bay is frequented by porpuses of a milk-white colour, which in some seasons yield a handsome profit, to those concerned in the fisheries. Whales seldom ascend higher than the mouth of the Saguenay.

The entrance to this bay, presents to the eye, a landscape, at once singularly romantic and beautiful, being terminated by mountains, whose varied and elevated summits, sharpen into cones of different magnitudes.

In ascending the Saint Lawrence, the country on either side affords pleasure and amusement to the traveller, by the exhibition of a profusion of grand objects. Amid the combination of islands, promontories, and hills cloathed with forests, some scenes, more strikingly than others, attract the attention. On the north side, after passing Mal-

bay, a bold and interesting scene is formed, by huge masses of rock, interspersed with shrubs, and by the east side of the hills, called *les Eboulements*, which with majestic elevation project into the river. The settlement of Camourasca, with the mountains beyond it, forms the opposite coast.

The island of Coudres, situated at the distance of about a league from the north shore, rises gradually from the water, except in a few places, where its borders, although of no great height, are almost perpendicular, and covered with small trees. It contains one parish, and about thirty families, each of which derives its support from its own lands. The extent of this island, is about seven miles in length, and about three in extreme breadth. Its name arose from the quantity of hazel-trees, which Jacques Cartier, in his voyage to Quebec, found growing in its woods.

The river, on the south side of the island, is of no great depth, and forms a winding channel of about two miles in width, deeper than any other part of its bed in this situation, and known by the appellation of the Traverse. When the wind is unfavourable, the navigation is here difficult; and the breadth of the river from Coudres to the south shore, being fourteen miles, great attention is necessary, in order to steer within the Traverse, which, if it be overshot by a large vessel, she will inevitably be set aground; but, as the bottom consists of mud, or sand,

damage is, in that event, seldom sustained, any further than the delay in waiting for a high tide.

The channel between Coudres and the north shore, is upwards of a league in breadth, and of considerable depth ; but as the anchorage there is by no means good, the bottom being rocky, a vessel in endeavouring to pass through it, would not be in full security, should the wind and tide cease to operate in her favour. For this reason, the southern passage is preferred by pilots.

The Eboulements, already noticed, consist of a small chain of mountains, suddenly rising from the water ; and, towards the east, bounding the entrance into Saint Paul's bay. On their sides, are several cultivated spots, and the settlements appear one above another, at different stages of height. The houses, corn-fields, and woods, irregularly scattered over the brow of the hills, produce an effect, luxuriant and novel.

Saint Paul's bay is formed by mountains, which, on either side, recede from the coast of the river, towards the north, inclosing a valley of nine miles in extent, through which, two small rivers pursue their serpentine courses. The mountains are heaped upon each other, and their rugged and pointed summits, boldly terminate the view. The valley is well cultivated, and thickly inhabited. A great proportion of the soil is rocky and uneven, and some spots, on the sides of the hills, are so precipitous, that

they are unfit for the purpose of pasturage. The inhabitants, however, cultivate those spots by manual labour, and sow them with wheat or oats. The dwelling-houses are, in general, large, are built of stone, and shew an external neatness, which is indeed, common to almost the whole of the habitations of the peasantry in Canada, the roofs and walls being washed with lime.

A number of rivulets, rolling down the sides of declivities, through gullies and ravines formed by their waters, afford situations convenient for saw-mills, several of which are here erected, and a considerable quantity of lumber * is exported from hence, every summer. This settlement also supplies grain, and cattle, for exportation, and comprehends, throughout its whole extent, about two hundred houses, and a neat church. The seminary of Quebec possesses the seignorial right over the lands of this establishment, which has been peopled upwards of a hundred and ten years.

The further extremity of the valley affords a scene of wild and picturesque beauty. A small river hastens, over a stony channel, its broken and interrupted waves. Acclivities on each side rear aloft their pointed summits, and the sight is abruptly bounded by a chain of elevated hills. The rocks composing the mountains in this vicinity are of

* Lumber, in a commercial sense, imports boards, plank, or squared timber.

G. Heriot Esqr. pinx^t.

F. C. Lewis sculp.

View at St. Paul's Bay, on the River St. Lawrence.

a hard, grey, contexture, intermixed with grains of shining, garnet-coloured quartz, which is sometimes united in entire stripes.

This part of the country, as well as Mal-bay, is subject to earthquakes, particularly in the winter season, when they are sometimes so alarming, as to threaten destruction to the buildings. No serious accident has, however, of late years occurred, although apprehension frequently compels the inhabitants to forsake their dwellings, during the reiteration of the shocks.

The breadth of the Saint Lawrence from Mal-bay to Camourasca on the south shore, is about twenty miles, and a cluster of rocky islands is situated about a league from the coast of that settlement. Between these islands and the shore, the inhabitants place, every spring, a fence, formed of the straight and slender boughs of trees, firmly stuck into the sandy bottom, at about two feet distance from each other. When the tide ascends, the white porpusses, with which the river abounds, enter those snares, and the violence of the current, causing a tremulous motion in the branches, they are afraid to repass the fences; when the tide has retired, they are left upon the dry beach.

These fishes, which are of a snowy whiteness, are to be seen playing, in great numbers, near the surface of the water, from the mouth of the river, as high up as the

island of Orleans, and frequently in the basin of Quebec. They often follow, in multitudes, vessels sailing in the river, and many of them are twelve, or even fifteen feet in length. One of the smallest will yield upwards of a barrel of oil. The fisheries of seals and sea-cows, are likewise profitable.

The vicinity of Camourasca presents a scene, wild and romantic, being varied by islands, by level lands, and by rocky acclivities. The sulphureous springs found here, and the immense masses of broken rock, which appear to have been thrown together by some violent and uncommon effort of nature, afford grounds for supposing, that this part of the country has undergone material changes.

From this settlement, in ascending the coast of the great river, the country is fertile, and thickly inhabited, being, in some places, settled to the depth of several concessions. The cultivated lands are level, and watered by a variety of fine streams, among which the Ouelle, the Saint Ann, and the Saint Thomas, are the chief. The latter falls into the Saint Lawrence in a beautiful manner, over a perpendicular rock, whose altitude is twenty-five feet. Great quantities of grain are produced in the parishes of the same names as these rivers; and the soil surpasses in fertility, any of the settlements around Quebec. The coasts of the great river afford excellent meadow lands. The churches, and settlements which are placed thickly

together, produce an agreeable contrast, with the forests and distant mountains. The face of the country on the north is elevated and bold, being composed of a succession of hills, rising abruptly from the water, and terminating towards the west, by cape Tourment, whose perpendicular altitude is two thousand feet. Between Saint Paul's bay and that cape, at the basis of one of the mountains, stands the parish of *la Petite Riviere*.

The centre of the river is diversified by clusters of small islands, some of which are settled, and partly cleared of their native woods. They supply good pasturage for cattle, and great quantities of hay. On approaching the island of Orleans, a rich and interesting view displays itself; it is composed by the eastern extremity of that island, cloathed with trees, the Isle *de Madame*, the Cape, and the mountains which recede from it towards the west and north, with the cultivated meadows which spread themselves under its rocky basis. When the atmosphere is varied by clouds, which frequently envelope the summits of those mountains, and which, by suddenly bursting open, present them partially to the eye, the spectator becomes impressed with the sublimity and grandeur of the scene.

Cape Tourment is three hundred and thirty miles distant from the mouth of the river. After passing the island of Coudres, the water assumes a whitish hue, and is

brackish to the taste, the mixture of salt continuing to diminish, until the tide reaches the lower extremity of Orleans, where it becomes perfectly fresh.

The latter island, rises in gradation, from its steep banks on the coast, towards its centre, presenting a pleasing and fertile appearance. Beyond it, the mountains of the north coast exalt their towering summits. Its circumference is about forty-eight miles. It was, in 1676, erected into an Earldom, under the title of Saint Laurent, which has long been extinct. Of the two channels formed by this island, that of the south, possessing much greater depth and breadth, is the course through which all vessels of burden are navigated. About the center of this island is an anchoring ground, called Patrick's hole, protected by lofty banks, and affording shelter, when necessary, for a great number of ships. The channel on the north, is navigable for sloops and schooners only, and appears to be gradually diminishing in depth.

Wild vines are found in the woods of Orleans, which induced Jacques Cartier, on his first landing there, to bestow on it the appellation of the *Isle de Bacchus*. Considerable quantities of grain are here produced ; and in several situations, there are orchards affording apples of a good quality. At the lower extremity of the island, the river is sixteen miles in breadth ; and at the upper extremity, a basin extending in every direction, about six miles, is

formed. At the approach to this basin, a number of objects combine to produce a lively and interesting prospect. The foaming clouds of the Montmorenci, pouring over a gloomy precipice, suddenly open on the eye. The rocks of Point Levi, and the elevated promontory, on whose sides the city of Quebec is placed, seem to bound the channel of the great river. The north side of the town is terminated by the Saint Charles. The settlement of Beauport, in extent about seven miles, intervenes between the Montmorenci and Quebec, and is situated on a declivity, extending from the hills to the Saint Lawrence, whose banks gradually slope towards the little river of Beauport, from whose western borders the land becomes level. A chain of mountains towards the north intercepts the view.

CHAPTER IV.

QUEBEC—DESCRIPTION OF THAT CITY—ROMANTIC SITUATION—NATURAL STRENGTH—RELIGIOUS ORDERS, AND THEIR ESTABLISHMENTS—SHIP-BUILDING—INTERESTING SCENE DISPLAYED FROM POINT LEVI—EXTENSIVE AND GRAND LANDSCAPE PRESENTED FROM THE HEIGHTS TO THE WESTWARD OF THE GARRISON——RIVER MONTMORENCI—NATURAL STEPS—SUBLIME WATERFALL——BASIN, AND ITS STRATA—DESCRIPTION OF THE FALL AS SEEN FROM THE COAST OF THE SAINT LAWRENCE.

FROM the period at which Jacques Cartier visited and explored the river Saint Lawrence, until the year 1603, no serious efforts were made by Europeans for the formation of a settlement in Canada. A space of nearly a century was suffered to elapse, without any other advantage having been derived from the discovery of this part of the continent of North America, than that of the precarious profits which accrued to some adventurers, by carrying on with the native inhabitants, who frequented the coasts of the great river, an inconsiderable traffic in peltry.

At length, in the æra mentioned above, Samuel de Champlain, a man of enterprize and talent, actuated by liberal sentiments, and by patriotic, more than by

G. Heriot Esqr. pinx^t. *F. C. Lewis sculp.*

Quebec from Cape Diamond.

G. Heriot Esqr. pinx^t. *F. C. Lewis sculp.*

View of Quebec, from the Distillery, at Beauport.

interested views, after having surveyed the borders of the river, for the choice of a situation presenting the greatest conveniences for a settlement, gave the preference to an elevated promontory, between the Saint Lawrence and the small river Saint Charles. It is asserted, that some of his attendants, having pronounced at first view of this point of land, the words " Quel bec!" Champlain bestowed that name on his projected town. After erecting some huts for the shelter of his people, he began to clear the environs, from the woods with which they were covered.

The spot which Champlain designed as the foundation of a future city, did no less credit to his judgment than to his taste. Its superior altitude and natural strength, afforded the advantage of its being in time rendered, by the labours of engineers, a respectable and formidable fortress.

Cape Diamond, the summit of the promontory, rises abruptly on the south, to the height of three hundred and fifty perpendicular feet above the river, advances from the line of the banks on the west, and forms the *Ance de Mer*, a small harbour, occupied for the purpose of ship-building. Some uneven ground subsides into a valley, between the works and the heights of Abraham; on the latter there are natural elevations, which are higher by a few feet, than any of the grounds included within the fortifications.

In 1690, Quebec was first fortified with eleven stone redoubts, which served as bastions, communicating with each other, by curtains composed of pallisades ten feet in height, strengthened in the interior with earth. No other defence was, for many years, provided against the hostile attempts of the Iroquois, and other savage tribes who were inimical to the French settlers. The ruins of five of these redoubts are yet extant.

The citadel is now constructed on the highest part of Cape Diamond, composed of a whole bastion, a curtain and half-bastion, from whence it extends along the summit of the bank towards the north-east, this part being adapted with flanks, agreeably to the situation of the ground. There are, towards the south-west, a ditch, counter-guard, and covered-way, with glacis. The works have, of late years, been in a great measurere built, and raised to a pitch calculated to command the high grounds in the vicinity.

When viewed from a small distance, they exhibit a handsome appearance. A steep and rugged bank, about fifty feet in height, terminates the ditch and glacis, on the north, towards which the ground slopes downwards from Cape Diamond, nearly three hundred feet, in a distance of about nine hundred yards. Along the summit of the bank a strong wall of stone, nearly forty feet high, having a half and a whole flat bastion with small flanks, occupies

a space of two hundred yards, to palace-gate, at which there is a guard-house. From hence to the new works at Hope-gate, is a distance of about three hundred yards. The rocky eminence increases in steepness and elevation as far as the bishop's palace, near which there is a strong battery of heavy cannon, extending a considerable way along the brow of the precipice, and commanding the basin, and part of the river. Between the edifice now mentioned, and the lower town, a steep passage, partly formed by nature, intervenes, over which there is a barrier, with a gateway of stone, surmounted by a guard-house, and this communication is otherwise defended by powerful works of stone, under the palace on one side, and on the other stretching upwards towards the government-house, where the bank becomes considerably more elevated. This building, which is dignified with the appellation of *chateau*, or castle of St. Louis, is placed on the brink of a precipice, inaccessible, and whose altitude exceeds two hundred feet. The building is supported by counterforts, rising to half its height, and sustaining a gallery. The apartments are occupied as offices for the civil and military branches, acting immediately under the orders of the governor-general of British America, who likewise commands the troops, and whose residence is in a building of more modern construction, forming the opposite side of a square. The apartments are spacious and plain, but the structure has

nothing external to recommend it. Upon the brink of the precipitous rock, a stone wall is extended from the old chateau, for a distance of about three hundred yards to the westward, which forms a line of defence, and serves as a boundary to the garden, within which are two small batteries, one rising above the other.

Cape Diamond, nearly two hundred feet higher than the ground on which the upper town is situated, presents itself to the westward. From the garrison there are five gates, or outlets to the neighbouring country, the highest, Port Saint Louis, opens to the westward, and towards the heights of Abraham; Port Saint John, towards Saint Foix, through which is the road to Montreal; Palace and Hope-gate open towards the river Saint Charles and the north, and Prescott-gate affords a communication to the lower town on the south-east.

In most of the public buildings, no great degree of taste or elegance can be discovered, although much labour and expence must have been bestowed on their construction. The architects seem principally to have had in view, strength and durability, and not to have paid much regard to those rules of their art, which combine symmetry with utility.

The cathedral church of the catholics, is a long, elevated, and plain building of stone, with the spire on one side of its front; the internal appearance is neat and spa-

cious, and it is capable of containing about three thousand persons. A good organ has here lately been introduced.

The Jesuits' college, originally founded at Quebec in 1635, has been, since that period rebuilt, and is a large stone edifice of three stories high, of nearly a square figure, containing an area in its centre. The garden is of some extent, and has, at one end, a grove of trees, part of which is a remain of the original woods, with which the promontory was once covered.

The society of Jesuits which became established in Canada, formerly composed a numerous body, and their college was considered as the first institution, on the continent of North America, for the instruction of young men. The advantages derived from it, were not limited to the better classes of Canadians, but were extended to all whose inclination it was to participate them, and many students came thither, from the West Indies. From the period of the expulsion of the Jesuits from the states of Europe, and the consequent abolition of their order on that continent, this establishment, although protected by the British government, began rapidly to decline. The last member of that fraternity died a few years ago, and the buildings, as well as lands which form an extensive domain, devolved to the crown.

The landed property was designed by the sovereign as a recompence for the services of the late Lord Amherst, who

commanded the troops in North America, at the time of the conquest of Canada, and who completed the reduction of that province, under the British government. The claim to these estates has been relinquished by his successor, for a pension. The revenue arising from them, has been appropriated by the legislature of Lower Canada, for the purpose of establishing in the different parishes, schools for the education of children. The Jesuits' college is now converted into a commodious barrack for the troops.

The seminary, a building of some extent, forming three sides of a square open towards the north-west, contains a variety of apartments, suited for the accommodation of a certain number of ecclesiastics, and of young students, who are of the Roman Catholic religion. This institution owes its foundation to M. de Petré, who, in 1663, obtained from the King of France, letters patent for that purpose Tythes were enjoined to be paid by the inhabitants, to the directors of the seminary, for its support, and a thirteenth in addition to what was already the right of the church, was levied. This regulation being found too oppressive, was altered to a twenty-sixth part of the produce, to be paid in grain, from which tax newly cleared lands were exempted, for a space of five years.

The members of the seminary are composed of a superior, three directors, and six or seven masters, who are appointed to instruct young men in the different branches

of education, professed by each. Since the decline and extinction of the order of Jesuits, the seminary, which was at first exclusively designed for the education of priests, and, excepting the college of Montreal, is the only public establishment of the kind in the province, is now open to all young men of the catholic faith, although they may not be destined for the sacerdotal function. The north-east aspect of this building is agreeable in summer, having under it a spacious garden, which extends to near the precipice on the east, and overlooks the lower town.

The monastery, with the church and garden of the Recollets, which occupied the western side of the spot called *Place d'Armes*, are now rased to the foundation, the buildings having been destroyed by fire in 1796, and the order to which they were appropriated, having since that period, become extinct.

Two new edifices have lately been erected, upon that site; the one, a protestant metropolitan church, the other a house for the courts of law. They are both constructed with the best materials, which this part of the country affords, and executed in a neat and handsome stile. The church, although not much ornamented, may be pronounced elegant, the rules of architecture having been adhered to in its structure. Considered as ornaments to the city of Quebec, it is to be regretted, that separate situations have not been allotted for them, and that in a country where public buildings

capable of attracting notice are rarely to be met with, two edifices of such consequence should have been placed so near to each other.

The Hotel Dieu, with its gardens, occupies a large extent of ground. It was founded in 1638 by the Duchess d'Aiguillon, who sent from the hospital at Dieppe three nuns, for the purpose of commencing this charitable and useful institution; it consists of a superior, and twenty-seven sisters, whose principal occupation is to assist, and to administer medicines and food to invalids of both sexes, who may be sent to the hospital, and who are lodged in wards, where much regard is paid to cleanliness.

The convent of the Ursulines was instituted in 1639, by Madame de la Peltrie, a young widow of condition, in France. It is possessed by a superior, and thirty-six nuns, who are chiefly engaged in the instruction of young women. The building is spacious, and has extensive gardens annexed to it.

The bishop's palace already mentioned, situated near the communication with the lower town, has been, for several years, occupied for public offices, and for a library. The chapel has been converted into a room, for the meeting of the provincial assembly of representatives.

Another edifice on the north side of the town, extending in length from palace-gate to the ramparts on the west, upwards of five hundred feet in length, contains a number

of vaulted apartments, and is occupied for the office of ordnance, for barracks for the royal artillery, for an armoury, store-houses and work-shops, and for a public goal, which forms the east end of the building.

The ruins of a large house which was formerly that of the intendant, remain on a flat ground on the banks of the river Saint Charles, and in the suburbs of Saint Roc. This was once called a palace, because the council of the French government in North America there assembled. The apartments, which were numerous and spacious, were furnished with magnificence and splendour. On one side of the court, were placed the king's storehouses, which, together with the palace, were consumed by fire, occasioned by a shell thrown from the garrison in 1775, when the town was blockaded by the Americans, with a view to dislodge some of the hostile troops, who had taken shelter in these buildings.

The general hospital, on the banks of the Saint Charles, about a mile westward from the garrison, and surrounded by meadow lands, was founded in 1693, by M. de Saint Vallier, Bishop of Quebec, with the benevolent design of affording support and relief to the poor, the infirm, the sick, and the wounded; nor have the purposes of its original founder at any time been defeated, with regard to the most scrupulous exactitude in their fulfilment. The extent of the building, whose form is that of a parallelogram,

is considerable, and it contains a variety of apartments, neat and commodious. A superior and thirty-seven sisters compose the community. Their time which remains from the occupations of the duties of religion, and the offices of humanity, is employed in gilding ornaments for the decoration of churches, and in several other works, at which they are expert.

The streets of Quebec are, in consequence of its situation, irregular and uneven, many of them are narrow, and but very few are paved. The houses are built of stone, are of unequal heights, and covered, in general, with roofs of boards; the roughness of the materials of which they are constructed, gives them a rugged aspect, and the accommodations are fitted up in a stile equally plain and void of taste. The frequent accidents which have happened, and the extensive damage which the town has repeatedly sustained from conflagrations, have suggested the expediency of covering the public buildings, and many of the dwelling-houses with tin, or painted sheet-iron.

The lower town, which is the principal place of commerce, occupies the ground at the basis of the promontory, which has been gradually gained from the cliffs on one side, by mining, and from the river on the other, by the construction of wharfs. The channel is here about a mile in breadth, to Point Levi, on the opposite shore, and its greatest depth at high water, is thirty fathoms, the anchorage being every where safe and good.

Since the year 1793, ship-building has been carried on with considerable success, and vessels of every description and dimension, from fifty to a thousand tons burthen, have been constructed. The materials are found in abundance in the country, but the anchors, sails, and cordage, are generally imported. As the tide usually rises eighteen feet, and at spring tides twenty-four feet, there is no difficulty in finding situations for dock-yards.

The rock of which the promontory of Quebec is composed, consists of a species of black lime slate, varying in thickness; which, although apparently compact, may, by the stroke of a hammer, be shivered into very thin pieces, and, by exposure to the influence of the weather, it moulders into soil. A considerable number of the houses of the town, is built of this stone, and there is a mode of placing it, by which, in masonry, its durability may be considerably prolonged.

The inhabitants, comprehended in Quebec, and in the suburbs of Saint John and Saint Roc, may be computed at about fifteen thousand.

When viewed from Point Levi, on the opposite coast of the river, an interesting variety of objects is exhibited, by massy rocks, interspersed with shrubbery, by Cape Diamond, boldly rising from the water; by the houses along its base, contrasted with the overhanging cliffs, by a confused cluster of buildings overtopping each other up the

side of the hill, and by the fortifications which crown the summit. The Saint Lawrence flowing on one side, and the Saint Charles on the other, give to this spot, the appearance of an island. The bridge across the latter is likewise visible from hence, and remote mountains terminate the prospect.

The scene, in winter, becomes amusing to strangers, particularly, if the ice on the great river, between Quebec, and the opposite coast of Point Levi, be closely fixed, a circumstance which depends more upon accident, than on the severity of cold, and does not frequently occur. When the ice becomes consolidated and stationary, it is called, by the Canadians, the *pont*, which affords, not only to the country people inhabiting the neighbouring parishes on the south side, a facility of conveying their produce to market, and thereby of rendering provisions and provender more abundant in the town, but likewise presents to the citizens, a large field for gratification and exercise, who then are constantly driving their horses and carriages, upon the solid surface of the stream.

From the heights to the westward of the garrison, an extensive and beautiful view, is developed, in summer, to the eye of the spectator. It is composed of the works, part of the loftier buildings of the town, the basin, point Levi, the island of Orleans, the south and north channels, the parishes of Beauport, Ange Gardien, and chateau Richer,

with the mountains on the north-east, stretching to Cape Tourment.

The river Montmorenci, which empties itself into the Saint Lawrence, at the distance of eight miles to the north-east of Quebec, was called after a marechal of that name, who was viceroy of New France. Passing through a course from the north-east, of considerable length, the first settlement through which it flows, is called La Motte, situated on the northern extremity of a sloping ground, which gradually descends from the mountains, to the coast of the great river. At La Motte, the waters diffuse themselves into shallow currents, interrupted by rocks, which break them into foam, accompanied by murmuring sounds, tending to enliven the solitude and solemn stillness, which prevail throughout the surrounding forests, and on the desolate hills. The channel of the river, farther down, is bounded by precipitous rocks, its breadth becomes extremely contracted, and the rapidity of its current is proportionably augmented. At a place called the *natural steps*, there are cascades of the height of ten, or twelve feet. These steps have been gradually formed, by the accession of waters which the river receives in its progress, at the breaking up of winter, and by the melting of snows. From the middle of April, to the end of May, its waters roll along with an increasing height and rapidity. The banks, from the natural steps, downwards to the Saint Lawrence,

are composed of a lime slate, placed in horizontal strata, from the depth of five to twenty-four inches each, connected by fibrous gypsum of a whitish colour. The waters, at the season already mentioned, powerfully impelled in their course, insinuate themselves between the strata, dissolve the gypsum, and tear the horizontal rock, which gives way, in fragments of various sizes, yielding to the rushing violence of the sweeping torrent. The regularity displayed in the formation of some of these steps, is well deserving of observation.

On the east side, the bank is almost perpendicular, is nearly fifty feet in altitude, and is covered at the summit, with trees. The south-west bank rises beyond the steps; in looking downwards it appears also wooded, and terminates in a precipice. The bank on the opposite side, assumes a regularity of shape, so singular, as to resemble the ruins of a lofty wall. Somewhat below, the banks on each side, are cloathed with trees, which, together with the effect produced by the foaming currents, and the scattered masses of stone, compose a scene, wild and picturesque. From hence, taking a south direction, the stream is augmented in velocity, and forms a cascade interrupted by huge rocks; and at a distance farther down, of five hundred yards, a similar effect is produced. After thus exhibiting a grateful variety throughout its course, the river is precipitated in an almost perpendicular direction, over a

G. Heriot Esqr. pinxt. F. C. Lewis sculp.

Fall of Montmorenci.
(246 Feet High)

rock of the height of two hundred and forty-six feet, falling, where it touches the rock, in white clouds of rolling foam, and underneath, where it is propelled with uninterrupted gravitation, in numerous flakes, like wool or cotton, which are gradually protracted in their descent, until they are received into the boiling, profound abyss, below.

Viewed from the summit of the cliff, from whence they are thrown, the waters, with every concomitant circumstance, produce an effect awfully grand, and wonderfully sublime. The prodigious depth of their descent, the brightness and volubility of their course, the swiftness of their movement through the air, and the loud and hollow noise emitted from the basin, swelling with incessant agitation from the weight of the dashing waters, forcibly combine to attract the attention, and to impress with sentiments of grandeur and elevation, the mind of the spectator. The clouds of vapour arising, and assuming the prismatic colours, contribute to enliven the scene. They fly off from the fall in the form of a revolving sphere, emitting with velocity, pointed flakes of spray, which spread in receding, until intercepted by neighbouring banks, or dissolved in the atmosphere.

The breadth of the fall is one hundred feet. The basin is bounded by steep cliffs, composed of grey lime slate, lying in inclined strata, which, on the east and west sides, are subdivided into innumerable thin shivers,

forming with the horizon, an angle of forty-five degrees, and containing between them, fibrous gypsum and *pierre à calumet*.* Mouldering incessantly, by exposure to the air, and to the action of the weather, no surface for vegetation remains upon these substances.

An advantageous view of the fall may be obtained from the beach, when the tide of the great river is low. In this are included, the east bank of the river, the point of Ange Gardien, and Cape Tourment. The south-west point of the basin, becomes the nearest object, beyond which appears the cataract of resplendent beauty, foaming down the gloomy precipice, whose summits are crowned with woods. Its reflection from the bed beneath, forms a contrast to the shade thrown by the neighbouring cliffs. The diffusion of the stream, to a breadth of five hundred yards, with the various small cascades produced by the inequalities in its rocky bed, on its way to the Saint Lawrence, display a singular and pleasing combination. It runs for about four hundred yards, through a wide and steep gulph, which it is generally supposed, that its waters have excavated. One circumstance seems, however, to controvert this conjecture. The bed beneath, over which the river flows, is invariably composed of a solid stratum of rock, over several parts of which, there are fords for the passage of carriages.

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* Soft stone, of which the heads of pipes, are sometimes formed.

G. Heriot Esqr. pinx^t. *F. C. Lewis sculp.*

Fall of Montmorenci in Winter.

The general depth of water, does not here exceed eight inches, but partial channels have been worn by the stream, few of which are above three or four feet in depth. There appears no vestige of any deep excavation, except in the vicinity of the fall, which, if it had ever receded from the Saint Lawrence, must have formed in the solid bed of rock, basins of considerable depth. The ford being, in most places, rugged and unequal, its passage is unpleasant, and not altogether safe.

CHAPTER V.

JEUNE LORETTE—DOMICILIATED NATIVES—MODE OF DANCING—THE SAINT CHARLES—CASCADES ON THAT RIVER—THE CHAUDIERE—DESCRIPTION OF ITS FALL—APPEARANCE IN WINTER—ISLAND OF ORLEANS—VIEWS FROM THENCE—SOIL—NORTH COAST OF THE SAINT LAWRENCE—CAPE TOURMENT—RIVER SAINT ANNE—ITS WATER-FALLS—LOWER FALL DESCRIBED—LA PUCE—ROMANTIC FALLS OF THAT LITTLE RIVER—VARIOUS LANDSCAPES—LAKE SAINT CHARLES—PICTURESQUE COMBINATIONS.

JEUNE LORETTE is situated nine miles to the north-west of Quebec, upon a tract of land which rises towards the mountains. It commands, by its elevated position, an extensive view of the river Saint Lawrence, of Quebec, of the intermediate country, of the southern coast, and of the mountains which separate Canada from the United States. The village, which contains upwards of two hundred inhabitants, consists of about fifty houses, constructed of wood and stone, which have a decent appearance.

The chapel is small, but neat, and the parish extending to a considerable way around, the Canadians, who form the greatest number of parishioners, have lately procured a church to be erected for their accommodation, about a quarter of a mile from the village. The Indians attend,

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View of Jeune Lorette, the Village of the Huron's, nine Miles North of Quebec.

with scrupulous observance, to the performance of their devotions. The women are placed in the centre of the chapel, and the men arrange themselves on each side, and on the rear. The former have in general good voices, and both sexes seem to evince a considerable degree of fervency, in the exercise of their religious duties.

They live together in a state of almost uninterrupted harmony and tranquillity; the missionary has a great influence over them, and they have exchanged, in some degree, the manners of savage life, for those of the Canadians, in whose vicinity they reside.

The quantity of land they occupy in cultivation, is about two hundred acres, which they plant with Indian corn, or maize. A number of the men pursue the chace, during the winter season. The French language is spoken by them with considerable ease, and the men, in general, notwithstanding their partial civilization, maintain that independance, which arises from the paucity and limitation of their wants, and which constitutes a principal feature in the savage character.

This nation originally frequented the vicinity of lake Huron, near a thousand miles from Quebec. It was once the most formidable and fierce, of any tribe that inhabited those quarters, dreaded even by the Iroquois; who, however, found means to subjugate, and almost to extirpate it, by pretending to enter into an alliance; the Hurons, too

blindly relying on the protestations of the Iroquois, the latter seized an opportunity, to surprise and slaughter them. The village now described, was composed of a part of the Hurons who escaped from the destruction of their tribe, and is occupied by the descendants of that people.

We assembled together in the evening, a number of males and females of the village, who repeatedly performed their several dances, descriptive of their manner of going to war, of watching to ensnare the enemy, and of returning with the captives they were supposed to have surprised. The instrument chiefly in use in the dances, is a calibash filled with small pebbles, called *chichicoué*, which is shaken by the hand in order to mark the cadence, for the voices and the movements. They are strangers to melody in their songs, being totally unacquainted with music. The syllables which they enounce, are *yo*, *he*, *waw*. These are invariably repeated, the beholders beating time with their hands and feet. The dancers move their limbs but a little way from the ground, which they beat with violence. Their dancing, and their music, are uniformly rude and disgusting, and the only circumstance which can recompense a civilized spectator, for the penance sustained by his ear, amid this boisterous roar, and clash of discordant sounds, is, that to each dance is annexed the representation of some action, peculiar to the habits of savage life, and, that by seeing their dances performed, some idea may be

acquired, of the mode of conducting their unimproved system of warfare.

The river Saint Charles, called by the natives, *Cabir Coubat*, on account of the curvatures of its channel, after winding for a few miles to the south-west of the lake of that name, passes the Indian village, and rolls over a steep and irregular rock, of the altitude of thirty feet, forming a beautiful and romantic cataract. In passing a mill, which is under the fall, the current becomes extremely narrow, and, for a space of three miles, is bounded by woody banks, on which, there are frequent openings cut through the trees, disclosing the rushing waters. The rapidity of the stream, opposed by rocks, produces quantities of white foam upon its gloomy surface, accompanied by murmuring sounds. The waterfall, with the smaller cascades above it, the mill, the bridge, the village, and the distant hills, present an agreeable landscape.

About three leagues to the eastward of Lorette, the village of Charlebourg is situated; this parish is populous and well cultivated, being one of the oldest settlements on that side of the river Saint Charles. The church stands on rising ground about a league to the north of Quebec, and the village, from the altitude of its position, commands a rich and extensive prospect. The lands are six miles in depth, and form part of the *seigneurie* of the Jesuits.

The river *Chaudiere* empties itself into the Saint Law-

rence, about eight miles to the south-west of Quebec. Its mouth is confined by woody banks, and contains depth of water to admit a ship of considerable size. This stream flows from Lake Megantic, through a course, north, and north-west, for a distance of one hundred and twenty miles.

The falls are about four miles from its mouth, and the road thither being, for the greatest part through woods, it is necessary, even for those that have already visited them, to take as a guide, one of the neighbouring inhabitants. The summit of the falls is about one hundred and twenty yards in breadth, and, in the spring of the year, the waters flow abundantly, swoln by the increase which they receive, from the dissolving snows of the country through which they run, and from tributary streams, which, at this season, are likewise augmented by the same causes.

The month of May appears to be the most advantageous period, at which to contemplate this interesting scene, the approach to which ought first to be made from the top of the banks, as, in emerging from the woods, it conducts at once to the summit of the cataract, where the objects which instantaneously become developed to the eye, strike the mind with surprise, and produce a wonderful and powerful impression.

The waters descend from a height of one hundred and twenty feet, and being separated by rocks, form three distinct cataracts, the largest of which is on the western side,

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View of the Falls of Chaudiere, nine Miles West of Quebec.

and they unite, in the basin beneath, their broken and agitated waves. The form of the rock forces a part of the waters, into an oblique direction, and advances them beyond the line of the precipice. The cavities worn in the rocks, produce a pleasing variety, and cause the descending waters to revolve with foaming fury, to whose whiteness the gloomy cliffs, present a strong opposition of colour. The vapour from each division of the falls, quickly mounting through the air, bestows an enlivening beauty on the landscape.

The wild diversity displayed by the banks of the stream, and the foliage of the overhanging woods, the brilliancy of colours richly contrasted, the rapidity of motion, the effulgent brightness of the cataracts, the deep and solemn sound which they emit, and the various cascades further down the river, unite in rendering this, such a pleasing exhibition of natural objects, as few scenes can surpass.

On descending the side of the river, the landscape becomes considerably altered, and the falls appear to great advantage. Masses of rock, and elevated points of land covered with trees, together with the smaller cascades on the stream, present a rich assemblage, terminated by the falls. The scenery in proceeding down the river, is rugged and wild.

The gratification derived, in the beginning of summer, from the contemplation of such scenes as that which has

now been described, is considerably damped by a reflection, on the short duration of the period allotted for beholding them with comfort. Myriads of winged insects, hostile to the repose of man, will shortly infest the borders of this river; when the warm weather, which consists not of one half the year, is expired, the ungenial winter will resume its domination, and the falls themselves, except an inconsiderable part of them, must, notwithstanding the rapidity of their course, become a solid body.

Viewed in the winter season, the falls exhibit an appearance more curious than pleasing, being, for the greatest part congealed, and the general form of the congelated masses, is that of a concretion of icicles, which resembles a cluster of pillars in gothic architecture, and may not improperly be compared to the pipes of an organ. The spray becomes likewise consolidated into three masses, or sections of a cone, externally convex, but concave towards the falls. The west side, being usually the only place in which the waters flow, the aspect is infinitely inferior to that displayed in summer, and the sound emitted, is comparatively faint. The surrounding objects, covered alike with snow, present one uniform glare. The rocks, and the bed of the river, disguised by unshapely white masses, produce a reflection, which gives, even to the waters of the cataract, an apparent tinge of obscurity.

The island of Orleans, rising from the river Saint Law-

rence, in some parts with steep and wooded banks, in others with more gentle ascent, presents to the eye an agreeable object. Its nearest point, is six miles to the north-east of Quebec. A favourable view of the neighbouring country is afforded from its higher grounds, particularly of the scenery on the north, which is diversified, bold, and extensive. The fall of Montmorenci discloses itself from hence, amidst a rich and enchanting combination of features. The central part of this island is clothed with trees, and the ground sloping from it on either side, few eminences occur, to interrupt the view. The parishes of Ange Gardien and Chateau Richer, are there seen to great advantage. From hence the river *la Puce*, on the opposite coast, at the distance of five miles, by an engaging display of natural attractions, invites the attention of the traveller; it rolls its current, broken into a refulgent whiteness equalling that of snow, from the summit of a lofty hill, and afterwards conceals itself midway, behind an intervening eminence of inferior altitude, cloathed with trees. The motion of its waters is perceptible, and the reflexion of light arising from the fall, glistening with the rays of the sun, produces a powerful contrast with the deep verdure of the forests by which it is environed.

At the lower extremity of the island, there are situations no less bold than picturesque; the north shore is interspersed with immense masses of detached limestone-rock;

the south side is cloathed with trees to the borders of the great river; from either, are seen cape Tourment, the isles and the mountains named Les Eboulements, which pierce the clouds with their pointed summits. The soil of the island is, in general, fertile, affording more produce than is necessary for the consumption of its inhabitants. Not many years ago, it was, for two successive seasons, visited by a scourge, which swept away, in its progress, the whole productions of the land. The grasshoppers, which are in a great degree multiplied, by the too long continuance of dry weather, appeared in such redundancy of swarms, as to consume every vegetable substance, and almost totally to cover the surface of the ground: when, by their destructive ravages, the island became so denuded of verdure, as no longer to afford them the means of sustenance, they assembled on the water in clusters, resembling small rafts, and floated with the tide and wind, along the basin of the Saint Lawrence, to Quebec, where they filled the decks and cordage of the vessels at anchor, and afterwards betook themselves, through the town to the ramparts, which, having stripped of grass, they proceeded in separate columns, through the country to the southward. A considerable part of their number probably perished in the voyage from the island, and the remainder, having a greater extent of territory over which to spread, their depredations became less perceptible.

Orleans contains five parishes, two of which, Saint Piere, and Saint Famille, are on the north side ; and three on the south, Saint François, Saint John, and Saint Lawrent. The number of its inhabitants amounts to about two thousand.

The channels which separate the island from the continent, are each about a league in breadth. The banks, on its western side, consist, for a considerable way down the coast, of black lime-slate, covered with soil, generated from the decomposition of that substance, and the annual decay of vegetable productions. The rocks of those on the eastern extremity,are mixed with grey quartz, reddish limestone, and grey limestone, combined with pale grains of sand.

From the parish of Ange Gardien, to the base of Cape Tourment, throughout an extent of eighteen miles, the coast is composed of fertile meadow land, varying in breadth, bounded on the north by steep and lofty banks, from whence the ground rises in gentle acclivities to the bases of the hills. By the reflux of the tide, a swamp of a mile in width, is here left uncovered; and on some parts of the coast of Orleans, there are similar muddy grounds. In spring and autumn, these situations are frequented by great numbers of snipes, plover, and wild ducks.

In the midst of meadows, near Cape Tourment, a narrow hill, about a mile in length, and flat on its summit, rises to the height of about a hundred feet. A large dwell-

ing-house, with chapel and other buildings, are placed towards the eastern extremity ; thither, the ecclesiastics of the seminary of Quebec, to whom these lands belong, retire in autumn.

Between the cape and the adjoining mountains, a lake is formed, the height of whose situation is several hundred feet above the level of the Saint Lawrence. The parish of Saint Joachim is populous, and the soil is rich, being equally adapted to pasturage, and to cultivation. It is separated from the parish of Saint Anne, by a stream of considerable magnitude, called *la Grande Riviere*, or the Saint Anne.

In travelling to the interior settlements, after having ascended two steep and lofty banks, or elevations from one plain to another, the road is continued for upwards of four miles through a forest composed of poplar, birch, beech, fir, and ash trees, in which there are some openings, disclosing an elevated mountain.

The settlement of Saint Feriole extends itself for near nine miles over a country gradually ascending, whose superior altitude contributes to increase the cold of the climate, and to render the land less productive. Necessity has induced an hundred families to fix their abode in this remote situation, where, if their industry be less copiously rewarded, and if the cold, which predominates longer in winter, and commences much earlier in autumn

than in the lower parts, sometimes check the vegetation of grain, and impede its advancement to maturity, there is notwithstanding, no appearance of indigence among the inhabitants.

On turning his eyes towards the country he has already passed, the traveller is gratified by a luxuriant and diversified assemblage of objects, which, like a chart, seems to expand itself beneath. After descending a hill cloathed with trees, and of about seven hundred feet in perpendicular elevation, we gained the side of the river which flows through this settlement, and of which we have already spoken. There are no less than seven falls of this river, which are near to each other, and are formed in its current from the summit, to the basis of a steep and lofty mountain, after having held its course for a distance of several miles, along a ridge of high lands. The stream does not exceed forty yards in width, and the principal and lower fall, which is on the north-east, is one hundred and thirty feet high. It has formerly flowed through another channel, in which it has been obstructed by fallen rocks, and also partly by a dam or dyke, which the industry and sagacity of the beaver, teach it to form, frequently across the channels of rivers. The ancient bed is plainly discoverable, by the deep ravines, worn, at different stages, on the side of the mountain, and by a valley near the lower fall.

Although, in almost the whole of the cataracts in Lower Canada, a certain similarity of effect is discoverable, the precipices over which they pour their waters being nearly perpendicular; and although these sublime objects so frequently occur, that the impression which novelty produces on the mind, is thereby in a great degree weakened, yet each is distinguishable by peculiar features. The accumulated waters in the spring of the year, by abrading, and sweeping down, portions of the solid rock, incessantly produce alterations, and thus enlarge the channel, or render it more deep.

The landscape which environs this fall, is grand and romantic. The banks are rugged, steep, and wild, being covered with a variety of trees. Below, large and irregular masses of limestone rock, are piled upon each other. Not one half of the mountain can be seen by the spectator, when stationed by the side of the river. The whole of the waters of the fall, are not immediately received into the basin beneath, but a hollow rock, about fifteen feet high, receives a part, which glides from thence, in the form of a section of a sphere. The river, throughout the remainder of its course, is solitary, wild, and broken, and presents other scenes worthy of observation.

The parishes of Saint Anne and Chateau Richer, are situated under a bank varying in height, extending from Saint Joachim to Ange Gardien, and from thence to the fall

G. Hervot Esqr pinx^t

Hassel sculp.

View of the Lower Fall of La Puce.

of Montmorenci. At the summit of this bank, the land rises by degrees, until it gains the mountains, and is in a state of cultivation. A stream, called Dog river, divides Saint Anne from Chateau Richer, and in the latter parish the small river La Puce joins the Saint Lawrence. The former, would scarcely deserve to be mentioned, if it were not for the curious and pleasing objects, which disclose themselves in ascending its course. The lower fall is one hundred and twelve feet in height, and its banks, formed by elevated acclivities, wooded to their summits, spread around a solemn gloom, which the whiteness, the movements, and the noise of the descending waters, contribute to render interesting and attractive. Besides the last, two other falls are formed by the higher stages of the mountain, where the river, confined in narrower compass, glides over less steep declivities. At the distance of two miles, in ascending the channel, another cataract appears pouring over masses of limestone rock, and assuming different directions in its descent. The environs of this river display, in miniature, a succession of romantic views. The banks near its mouth, are almost perpendicular, and partly denuded of vegetation, being composed of a dark lime slate-like substance, which is in a state of continual decay.

In vain would the labours of art, endeavour to produce in the gardens of palaces, beauties, which the hand of nature scatters in the midst of unfrequented wilds. The

river, from about one-fourth of the height of the mountain, discloses itself to the contemplation of the spectator, and delights his eye with varied masses of shining foam, which suddenly issuing from a deep ravine hollowed out by the waters, glide down the almost perpendicular rock, and form a splendid curtain, which loses itself amid the foliage of surrounding woods. Such is the scene which the fall of La Puce exhibits, when viewed from the summit of a bank on the eastern side of the river.

The settlement of Chateau Richer, derives its name from the ruins of an edifice situated on a small rocky point, on the borders of the Saint Lawrence. It was a Franciscan monastery, when the army under General Wolfe encamped on the eastern bank of the Montmorenci. As the monks used their influence among the inhabitants in their vicinity, to impede a supply of provisions for the English army, it was deemed necessary to send thither a detachment to make them prisoners. They had so fortified themselves within their mansion, that field pieces were required to compel them to a surrender. The house was destroyed by fire, and nothing now remains, except a part of the walls, and the ruins of an adjoining tower, which was formerly a wind-mill. By an inscription above the door, it appears to have been built one hundred and twelve years ago. The parish church is placed on a bank, immediately behind the chateau, and

G. Heriot Esqr. pinx^t. *F. C. Lewis sculp.*

Fall of La Puce.
(taken from the Eastern Bank)

G. Heriot Esqr. pinxt.

F. C. Lewis sculp.

Ruins of Chateau Richer with Cape Tourment

has two spires. The ruins already described, the great river, the island of Orleans, the point of Ange Gardien, and Cape Diamond in the distance, compose an agreeable scene.

Toward the east, a yet happier combination of objects presents itself. On the left, are the ruins of the monastery, the church, banks cloathed with foliage, and the lower grounds studded with white cottages; over which Cape Tourment, and the chain of mountains whose termination it forms, tower with exalted majesty.

The rocks which in part compose the mountains, consist of a quartz, of the colour of amber, mixed with a black, small-grained glimmer, black horn stone, and a few minute grains of brown spar. The stone is generally compact, and resists the operation of fire. Some of these rocks, are a mixture of white quartz and black glimmer, with grains of brown spar.

Lake Saint Charles is supplied by the river of the same name, and diffuses itself over an extent of flat lands, bounded by mountains, about fourteen miles to the northward of Quebec. In going thither, the road passes over a mountain, from whence is opened, an extensive view of the great river and its banks.

On arriving at the vicinity of the lake, the spectator is delighted by the beauty and picturesque wildness of its banks. It is, around small collections of water like

this, that nature is displayed to the highest advantage. The extent of the lake is about five miles, and it is almost divided into two, by a neck of land, which forms a narrow passage, nearly at the center. Trees grow immediately on the borders of the water, which is indented by several points advancing into it, and forming little bays. The lofty hills which suddenly rise towards the north, in shapes, singular and diversified, are overlooked by mountains which exalt beyond them, their more distant summits.

The effect produced by clouds, is here solemn and sublime, particularly during thunder storms, when they float in rugged masses, around the tops of the hills, whose caverns, and defiles, re-echo to the trembling forests, the hoarse and awful roar.

About three miles from the lake, in a valley amid precipitous mountains, a settlement was begun a few years ago. Its situation is highly romantic, being watered by several streams, and likewise by the Saint Charles, whose banks, throughout its winding course, to the lake, are adorned with a variety of scenery.

G. Heriot Esqr. pinx^t.

Cartwright sculp.

View on the Upper Lake St. Charles, near Quebec.

CHAPTER VI.

COUNTRY TO THE WESTWARD OF QUEBEC—LAKE CALVIERE—THE JACQUES CARTIER—ROMANTIC SCENERY WHICH IT DISPLAYS—TOWN OF THREE RIVERS—LAKE SAINT PETER—TOWN OF WILLIAM HENRY—RIVER CHAMBLY—ISLAND OF MONTREAL—RELIGIOUS ORDERS, AND THEIR ESTABLISHMENTS—VIEW FROM THE SUMMIT OF THE MOUNTAINS—INDIAN VILLAGE OF THE SAULT SAINT LOUIS—LA CHINE—LAKE SAINT LOUIS—CASCADES—RAPIDS OF THE CEDARS—OF THE COTEAU DU LAC—LAKE SAINT FRANCIS—CASCADES OF THE LONG SAULT—MULTITUDE OF ISLES.

IN ascending the Saint Lawrence from Quebec to Montreal, the country on either side that river, becomes less diversified, but more rich in soil, and more improved in cultivation, as the traveller advances. The banks, which are abrupt and precipitous, open into several little bays, intermixed with rocks, woods and settlements. On the north side, at the distance of two miles from the town, is Wolfe's Cove, the place at which the celebrated General of that name disembarked his army, previous to the battle on the heights of Abraham. On the summit of the western bank of this little bay, stands a handsome house, built by General Powell, whose situation, together with the shady walks by which it is surrounded, renders it a pleasing retreat.

From hence to Cape Rouge, the scenery, on account of its beauty and variety, attracts the attention of the passenger. At Sillery, a league from Quebec, on the north shore, are the ruins of an establishment, which was begun in 1637; intended as a religious institution for the conversion and instruction of natives of the country, it was at one time inhabited by twelve French families. The buildings are placed upon level ground, sheltered by steep banks, and close by the borders of the river. They now consist only of two old stone-houses, fallen to decay, and of the remains of a small chapel.* In this vicinity, the Algonquins once had a village; several of their tumuli, or burying-places, are still discoverable in the woods, and hieroglyphics cut on the trees, remain, in some situations, yet uneffaced.

Cape Rouge is a lofty bank, suddenly declining to a valley, through which a small river, the discharge of a lake, situated among the mountains on the north, runs into the Saint Lawrence. A slate-stone, of a reddish colour, easily mouldering into thin shivers, is found at the surface, on the summit of the bank. A part of the borders of the river Chaudiere, on the opposite coast, consists of the same substance.

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* The chapel has of late been repaired and fitted up for a malt-house, and some of the other buildings have been converted into a brewery.

The distance from Quebec to this cape, is eight miles; and, towards the north, a bank parallel to that on the great river, but of inferior elevation, extends throughout that space, and joins the promontory. The mean interval between these acclivities, is about a mile and a half. The level, and in some situations, swampy lands, on the north of this eminence, which in many places abound in stones, apparently formed in the bed of a river, afford probable grounds for conjecture, that a portion of the waters of the Saint Lawrence, formerly flowed between the heights of Saint Augustin and Cape Rouge, directing their course along the valley, insulating the parishes of Quebec and Saint Foix, and re-uniting at the place where the Saint Charles empties itself into the basin.

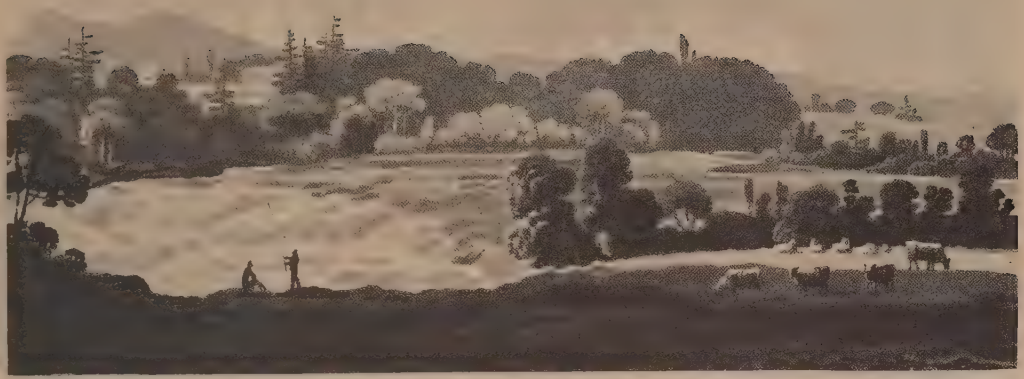
The low space between the high grounds now mentioned, is about half a mile in breadth, and, by a disclosure of the distant mountains, presents to the eye an agreeable variety. On the opposite coast, at the mouth of the small river Saint Nicholas, a charming combination of picturesque objects is afforded. A part of the bank here rises to the height of about five hundred feet, and is cloathed with trees. The little river rolls with foaming swiftness into the Saint Lawrence, and turns, with a portion of its waters, corn mills of considerable extent. Two beautiful waterfalls, at no great distance from each other, are to be seen upon this river.

At Point Levi, and likewise at the Etchemin, on the south side of the great river, there are corn mills upon an enlarged scale, which belong to the same proprietor, as those of Saint Nicholas.

Lake Calviere, on the north shore, is a collection of water, about two miles in length, whose borders are diversified by woods and cultivated fields. Viewed from the river, the church and mill of St. Augustin, placed beneath steep banks, richly wooded, compose a pleasing scene.

Pointe aux Trembles, a village of some extent, seven leagues from Quebec, is situated under a bank, from whence a quantity of meadow land spreads down to the coast. It contains a small convent of nuns, and a neat church.

Through a contracted valley formed by acclivities steep and abrupt, the Jacques Cartier sweeps with impetuosity, over a rocky and interrupted bed, its broken and sonorous current. The distance thither from Quebec, is thirty miles. The navigator who first explored the Saint Lawrence, as far as Montreal, here wintered in 1536, and from this occurrence, his name has been given to the stream. The breadth of its mouth is about three hundred yards, and contiguous to it, there are extensive corn mills, worked by water conveyed from a considerable distance, along an aqueduct, under which the road to the ferry passes. The ferrymen traverse the boats from one side to the other, by



G. Heriot Esqr. pinx^t.

F. C. Lewis sculp.

View on the River Etchemin, near Quebec.

G. Heriot Esqr. pinxt.

F. C. Lewis sculp.

New Bridge on the River Jacques Cartier

a strong rope fixed to posts, on account of the rapidity of the waters. On the summit of the hill, at the western side of the ferry, are the remains of an earthen redoubt, which was constructed by the French in 1760. Here, as well as higher up the course of the river, an uncommon wildness is displayed, and the stream is frequently broken into cascades, particularly in the vicinity of the new bridge, where its channel is confined by rugged rocks, some of which are excavated in a singular manner, by the incessant operation of the furious torrent. During the summer months, salmon are here caught in abundance.

The church of Cape Santé, with the opposite coast, which assumes a singular shape, together with the point of Dechambault, and the vast sheet of water intervening, exhibit a pleasing combination of distant objects. At the latter situation, the principal bed of the Saint Lawrence is confined to a narrow, winding, and intricate course, which, at the reflux of the tide, has a considerable descent. At high water, much caution is required, in conducting through it, a vessel of burthen, as the channel on either side is shallow, and abounds with concealed rocks.

The Saint Anne is of considerable width, but of no great depth, and its current is scarcely perceptible, at the place where it is crossed by travellers. The want of bridges over most of these streams, is a great inconvenience, their passage in the spring and at the commencement of winter,

being sometimes attended with peril, from the quantities of loose and floating ice.

The Battiscan contains not so much water as the last, but is more deep and rapid. An iron foundry has, within these few years, been established on its banks.

The town of Three Rivers is situated upon a point of land, near the confluence with the Saint Lawrence, of the stream from which it derives its name. It extends about three quarters of a mile, along the north bank of the former. The surrounding country is flat, and its soil is composed of sand, mixed with black mould. In the mouth of the stream, there are two islands, which divide it into three branches. On ascending its course, the borders become wild and picturesque. The town was indebted for its original establishment to the profits arising from the commerce for peltry, which in the infancy of the colony, was carried on by the natives, through the course of this river, which flows from the north-east, for a distance of three hundred miles. Thither, various tribes of these savages, descended from the vicinity of Hudson's bay, and the country intervening between that and the Saint Lawrence.

Attracted by the advantages which the agreeable situation of the place, and the rendezvous for traffic, presented, several French families here established themselves. The proximity of the Iroquois, a nation which cherished an

irreconcileable hostility to the French, suggested the necessity of constructing a fort, and the district of Three Rivers became, at length, a separate government. After a lapse of some years, the natives who traded to this place, harassed and exposed to continual danger, from the frequent irruptions of that warlike nation, discontinued their accustomed visits.

The town contains a convent of Ursulines, to which is adjoined a parochial church, and an hospital. It was founded in 1677 by M. de Saint Vallier, bishop of Quebec, for the education of young women, and as an asylum for the poor and sick. A superior and eighteen nuns now possess it, and discharge the functions of this humane institution.

A monastery of Recollets formed also, one of the religious edifices of this place, but that order has been for some time extinct.

As there are several protestant inhabitants in the town, it is the residence of a rector, and divine service is regularly performed agreeably to the rites of the established church of England.

On the banks of the river already mentioned, and about nine miles up its course, an iron foundry, which was first worked in 1737, is situated. The manufacture of ore into cast, as well as hammered iron, is here carried on to a considerable extent. The works, and the soil in which the

ore is found, are the property of government, and they are rented by a company at Quebec, on lease, at the rate of eight hundred pounds per annum. The ore lies in horizontal strata, and near the surface. It is composed of masses, easily detached from each other, perforated, and the holes filled with ochre. It possesses softness, and friability, and for promoting its fusion, a grey limestone, found in its vicinity, is used. The hammered iron is soft, pliable, and tenacious, and has the quality of being but little subject to the influence of rust. The latter property, is probably derived from the materials employed in its fusion. For this purpose, wood only is applied, which is highly preferable to mineral coal.

Lake Saint Peter is formed by an expansion of the waters of the Saint Lawrence, to the breadth of from fifteen to twenty miles, and its length is twenty-one miles. It is in general, of small depth, many parts of the channel, being not more than ten or eleven feet deep, and it sometimes occurs, that large vessels here run aground. The tide scarcely extends as far up as the town of Three Rivers, which is near two leagues farther down than the lake, and the current in the latter is extremely faint. Several small rivers here discharge their waters, among which are the Machiche, Du Loup, and Masquenongé, on the north, and the Nicolet and Saint Francis, on the south; on the banks of the latter, an Indian village of the same name, is situated,

peopled by part of the Abinaquis tribe, among whom a missionary and an interpreter reside.

At the upper end of the lake, a variety of small islands is interspersed, some of which are partly cleared of their woods, and afford rich pasturage for cattle. In the spring, and autumn, they abound in wild fowl, particularly in ducks. These are the only islands that occur in the channel of the great river, from Orleans, to this situation, a distance of about a hundred and seventeen miles. From hence to lake Ontario, it is frequently varied by clusters of islands, some of which are of great beauty and fertility.

The town of William Henry, or Sorel, in latitude 45° 55,, longitude 73° 22′, is agreeably situated at the confluence of the Sorel or Chambly river, with the Saint Lawrence, and contains a protestant, and a Roman catholic church. The Sorel takes its rise from lake Champlain, and directing its course towards the north, runs through a fertile and pleasant country, where its borders are adorned by several valuable and productive farms. On the site of the town, a fort was constructed in 1665, by M. de Tracy, viceroy of New France, as a defence against the irruption of the Iroquois. M. de Sorel a captain, superintended its execution, and from him this part of the river received its name. Between lake Champlain, and the junction of this stream with the Saint Lawrence, there are two forts situated on its banks, the one called Saint John, composed of cedar

pickets and earth, the other, Chambly, built of stone in a quadrangular form, and having the appearance of a castle. It is the only edifice in North America, which has any resemblance to that ancient mode of structure. Saint John is a frontier garrison, and a company of infantry, and some artillery, are generally stationed in it. As the channel of intercourse between Montreal and the United States of America, is principally through this post, a collector, and comptroller of the customs, always reside here. The country around Chambly, exhibits a romantic aspect; the river, in this part shallow, broken and diffused, rushes down a declivity, interrupted by rocks; an extensive and elevated mountain, of a pleasing shape, rears itself aloft, in the midst of level lands, and confines between its conical summits, a lake of pure water. In the months of June and July, great quantities of timber and boards formed into rafts, frequently of two or three hundred feet in length, are floated down this river, from the borders of lake Champlain. These materials are used in ship-building, and are also exported to England.

Berthier, a settlement on the north banks of the great river, is extensive, populous, and rich in soil. The numerous islands, which afford pasturage and shade in summer to horses and cattle, contribute much to the beauty of the situation. Some of these islands are of considerable size, and contain a number of inhabitants. The country

is here not diversified by inequalities of surface, but the bounty of the soil compensates for the absence of grandeur in scenery.

The village of Vercheres presents itself on the south bank, and about two leagues farther, in ascending, another settlement, named Varennes, is placed on a point of land, and contains a handsome church with two spires. The country in this quarter, increases in population, and villages are more frequent. Some of the islands in this part of the river are so flat, that in the spring they are overflown by the waters. Those whose elevated situation exempts them from this inconvenience, are cultivated and inhabited. In some seasons, the buildings are subject to be injured by enormous masses of ice, which meet with obstruction in their passage. They then become accumulated, one upon another, sometimes to an astonishing height, and the pieces which are uppermost, impelled by the impetus of the current acting upon those in their rear, are thus carried for a considerable way upon the islands, bearing down, or cutting asunder in their progress, every intervening object. In this manner, houses, as well as barns, have been destroyed.

A particular species of grass which is long and rank, called by the Canadians, *l'herbe au lien*, grows upon some of the islands. This forms a very durable covering for stables and barns, and a roof composed of it, will last for many

years, without the want of repair. At a few miles distant from Varennes, near a hill which rises in the midst of plains, the village of Boucherville is situated. It is inhabited by people of the most ancient families in the country, whose means are not affluent, but who, in this retreat, enjoy among themselves an agreeable society.

On the north side of the Saint Lawrence, the road to Montreal is interrupted by a branch of the Outaouais, or grand river, which is about a mile in width between Repentigni, and the point of the island.* It encompasses with its waters the isles de Jesus, Perrot, Bissart, and washes the northern coast of the island of Montreal, which is surrounded by it, and the Saint Lawrence. The first of these isles was formerly named Montmagny, after one of the governors of the province, but on its being conceded to the Jesuits, it received its present appellation. From that order, it passed to the members of the seminary, by whom it was first settled. The channel which separates the islands, is denominated *la riviere des Prairies*, being on either side, bordered by meadows.

The stream, towards the centre of the island becomes

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* A wooden bridge on the model of that which was built over the Rhine at Schauffhausen, has lately been constructed from Repentigni to an isle in the channel, and another bridge of the same description is now erecting, to form a communication between the other side of that isle, and the north-east end of the island of Montreal.

rapid and broken, and this particular place is distinguished by the name of *Sault au Recollet*, a member of that fraternity having there perished. The ecclesiastics of the seminary of Montreal, had formerly, in this vicinity, a mission for the conversion of the natives, but they afterwards removed it to the Lake of the Two Mountains.

The third branch of the river on the north, is interspersed with such a number of isles, that there appears as much land as water. At the head of the isle Jesus, is the small island Bizart, called after a Swiss officer, to whom it belonged. Somewhat higher, towards the south, stands isle Perrot, deriving its name from the first governor of Montreal: it is almost round, and is six miles in diameter. The former isle terminates the lake of the Two Mountains, and the latter separates this lake from that of Saint Louis, which is only an extension of the river Saint Lawrence, and was, for a series of years, the limit of the French colony towards the west.

The length of the island of Montreal is thirty miles, and its mean breadth about seven, its circumference being seventy miles. It may be said to owe its original settlement to the Abbé Quetus, who, in 1657, arrived from France, accompanied by deputies of the seminary of Saint Sulpicius, to take possession of this spot, and here to found a seminary. The other inhabitants of the colony were gratified to find, that a body of men so respectable,

had undertaken to clear, and settle an island, the efforts of whose first possessors, had hitherto been too languid. The seignorial rights of that fertile and valuable tract of territory, are still vested in the representatives of the order of Saint Sulpicius, which, in France, was swept away in the revolutionary torrent.

The city of Montreal, in latitude 45° 33′, longitude 73° 37′, is placed on the south side of the island of the same name, whose banks are here from ten to fifteen feet high, from the level of the water. It is built in the form of a parallelogram, extending from north to south. A deep and rapid current flows between the shore and the island of Saint Helen; a strong north-east wind is therefore necessary, to carry vessels up to the town, and when that is wanting, they remain at anchor, at the lowér end of the stream. This inconvenience might have been obviated, had the city been built about a mile below its present site, at a place called the Cross. The original founders were enjoined by the government of France, to make choice of a situation as high up the river, as large vessels could be navigated, and it appears that the injunction was literally obeyed.

The streets are airy, and regularly disposed, one of them extending nearly parallel to the river, through the whole length of the place; they are of sufficient width, being intersected at right angles, by several smaller streets,

which descend from west to east. The upper street is divided into two, by the Roman Catholic church, adjoining to which, there is a large open square, called the *Place d'Armes*.

The habitations of the principal merchants are neat and commodious, and their storehouses are spacious, and secured against risque from fires. They are covered with sheet-iron or tin ; without this precaution, as the roofs of dwellings in Canada are usually formed of boards, and sometimes with the exterior addition of shingles, they would, in summer, become highly combustible from without, and liable to ignition from a small spark of fire. The houses which are protected in the former manner, will last, without need of repairs, for a considerable number of years.

The town was inclosed by a stone fortification, which, having long fallen to ruins, is now in a great measure levelled, or removed. It was thus fortified, to guard its inhabitants against the frequent irruptions of the Iroquois, and the walls were never in a state to resist the attack of a regular army. An act of the colonial legislature, was some time ago passed, for their total demolition. This has in a great degree been carried into effect, and the place is now rapidly improving in extension, as well as in neatness of edifices.

Montreal is divided into the upper and lower towns,

although the difference of level between them, exceeds not twelve or fifteen feet. In the latter are the public market, held twice in the week, and the Hotel Dieu. The upper town contains the cathedral, the English church, the convent of Recollets, that of the sisters of Notre Dame, the Seminary, the Government house, and the new Court of Law. The religious edifices are constructed with more solidity than taste, and all of them are possessed of extensive gardens.

The Hotel Dieu, founded by Madame de Bouillon in 1644, have a superior and thirty nuns, whose principal occupation consists in administering relief to the sick, who are received into that hospital. A large room in the upper part of the building, is appropriated as a ward for female, and one immediately under it, for male patients. As the institution was intended for public benefit, the medicines were, during the French government, supplied at the expence of the crown. The fund by which it was supported, being vested in Paris, was lost in consequence of the revolution. Its present slender sources, are chiefly derived from some property in land.

The General Hospital stands on the banks of the river, and is separated from the town by a small rivulet. It owes its establishment, in 1753, to a widow lady named Youville: it contains a superior, and nineteen nuns.

A natural wharf, very near to the town, is formed by the depth of the stream, and the sudden declivity of the bank. The environs of Montreal, are composed of four streets extending in different directions. That of Quebec on the north, Saint Lawrence towards the west, and the Recollet and Saint Antoine towards the south; in the latter is placed the college, which has been lately rebuilt. These, together with the town, contain about twelve thousand inhabitants.

The mountain is about two miles and a half distant from the town. The land rises, at first by gentle gradations, and is chiefly occupied for gardens and orchards, producing apples and pears of a superior quality. The more steep parts of the mountain, continue to be shaded by their native woods. The northern extremity, which is the most lofty, assumes a more abrupt acclivity with a conical form, and the remains of the crater of a volcano, are found among the rocks. This elevated spot, about seven hundred feet above the level of the river, is of a long shape, and extends upwards of two miles from north to south, subsiding towards the center, over which a road passes, and again rising in rugged masses, clothed with trees. A house and gardens, belonging to, and occupied by the members of the Seminary, are agreeably situated on the eastern declivity.

The scene displayed from the summit of the mountain, which is the only eminence on the island, is, on every

side, extensive and rich. The city of Montreal, the cultivated lands, the habitations interspersed among trees, the great river rapidly dashing into clouds of white foam, over the rocks of La Chine, and sweeping its silver course around a variety of islands; the lofty mountain of Chambly, with those of Beleuil, and Boucherville, compose the scenery towards the east. That on the north, though of equal fertility, is less diversified.

The most favourable view of the town, is from the opposite island of Saint Helen, where the mountain appears in the back ground. The eastern coast of the river, on which is Longueuil, Saint Lambert, and la Prairie de la Madelene, is well cultivated and thickly inhabited.

At the breaking up of the winter, the buildings of the town, which are situated near the river, are sometimes subject to damage, by the accumulation of large fragments of ice, impelled by the rapidity of the current, already described.

Montreal being placed one degree and sixteen minutes south from Quebec, enjoys a more favourable climate. The soil is richer, and the duration of winter is not so long at the former place, as at the latter, by the space of six weeks. This superiority, with respect to climate and soil, renders it preferable to Quebec, as a place of constant residence. The markets are more abundantly supplied, and the articles of living, are sold at a more reasonable

Drawn on the Spot by G. Heriot Esqr.

Engrav'd by Cartwright

City of Montreal.
(taken from the Mountain.)

price, especially during winter, when the inhabitants of the United States, who reside upon lands bordering on Lower Canada, bring for sale, a part of the produce of their farms; quantities of cod, and of other fish, in a frozen state, are likewise conveyed thither in slays, from Boston.

The island contains nine parishes, Saint Laurent, Saint Genevieve, Saint Anne, Pointe Clare, Pointe aux Trembles, Longue Pointe, Sault au Recollet, Riviere des Prairies, and La Chine.

La Chine, situated on the south-east side of the island, is the place from whence all the merchandise, and stores for Upper Canada, are embarked in bateaux, to proceed up the course of the Saint Lawrence, and in birch canoes, to ascend the Outaouais, or Grand River. The store-houses which belong to the commissary department, are situated at the upper part of the Sault Saint Louis. Those of the merchants, and of the Indian department, are placed about two miles higher up, on the borders of the river. During the summer season, bateaux are frequently passing between this place, and Kingston in Upper Canada.

The settlement of La Chine, received its name, from a plan which had been projected, of penetrating through the continent of North America, to China, the persons engaged in the enterprize, having embarked at this spot.

The chief barriers of Montreal and its environs, for many years after the date of its establishment, were two

villages of Iroquois Christians, and the fort of Chambly. The first, and most considerable village, is that of the Sault Saint Louis, situated on the border of the river, opposite La Chine, and about four leagues from the city. It has twice changed its site, but has never been removed more than four miles from its former position. The church, and the dwelling of the missionary, are protected towards the north and south, by a stone wall, in which there are loop-holes for musquetry. The village, which is composed of about a hundred and fifty houses, built of stone, contains upwards of eight hundred inhabitants, who are not less dirty and slovenly in their persons, than in their habitations. This mission is considered as the most extensive of any of those among the domiciliated natives, in Canada. Its original settlers, belonging to the tribe of Iroquois, or Mohawks, were converted to christianity, and fixed there by missionaries, when the French colony in Canada was feeble in population, and circumscribed in extent. The principal support of these Indians, is derived from the cultivation of their grounds, and breeding hogs and poultry, more than from fishing and the chace. Their natural indolence will not, however, permit them to acquire habits of regular industry and labour. This insuperable aversion to a life of activity, they dignify with the title of independence, annexing to most of the employments of civilized life, the idea of slavery.

Their hunting grounds are at a considerable distance from their settlement, lying in the territory of the United States, around Fort George, Ticonderago and Crown Point, and extending sometimes along the coast of the Saint Lawrence, as far as the bay of Chaleurs; about one-third of the inhabitants of the village, descend in winter, to hunt in those quarters. The wild animals, with which these regions formerly abounded, have now become extremely rare, not only from the immense numbers that have been killed, but on account of the increase of settlements and population; multitudes which the chace had yet spared, were driven in quest of a secure retreat, to the more remote forests.

The transport of merchandise, and other articles, from the island of Montreal to Kingston in Upper Canada, is, it has been remarked, conducted by means of bateaux, or flat-bottomed boats, narrow at each extremity, and constructed of fir planks. Each of these being about forty feet in length, and six feet across the widest part, generally contains twenty-five barrels, or a proportionate number of bales of blankets, cloths, or linens, and is capable of conveying, nine thousand pounds weight. Four men and a guide, compose the number of hands allotted for working a bateau. These are supplied with provisions, and with rum, and are allowed from eight to eleven dollars each, for the voyage to Kingston, and from thence down again to

La Chine, the time of performing which, is from ten to twelve days. The wages of the pilot or guide, amount to twelve or fourteen dollars. Each bateau is supplied with a mast and sail, a grappling iron, with ropes, setting poles, and utensils for cooking. The bateaux when loaded, take their departure from La Chine, in number, of from four, to eight or ten together, that the crews may be enabled to afford aid to each other, amid the difficulties, and laborious exertions required in effecting this voyage. About fifty bateaux are employed on this route, and bring down for the objects of commerce which are conveyed up, wheat, flour, salted provisions, peltry and potash.

From twenty to thirty bateaux are likewise kept in the service of government, for transporting necessaries for the troops, and stores for the engineer department; likewise articles of European manufacture, which are every year distributed in presents to the Indian tribes. There are thus engaged about three hundred and fifty men, whose occupation it is, during the sultry months of summer, to struggle against the most tremendous rapids. Besides these, near four hundred men, ascend in bark canoes, by the grand river of the Outaouais, in a direct course to Saint Joseph's on Lake Huron, and from thence to the new establishment on Lake Superior, called Kamanastigua.

Lake Saint Louis, formed by the junction of part of

the Outaouais river with the Saint Lawrence, is about ten miles in width, and contains the isle Perrot, already noticed, surrounded by the waters of the former, which, for a considerable way down, mingle not with those of the latter, a circumstance which is evinced by the difference in their colours. The parish of Chateau-gaye, and several small islands, occupy the south-east side of the lake, into which the cascades furiously pour their billows, and seem to prohibit to the traveller, any further progress by water. The bateaux are conducted to the western side, and ascend the first locks, at the top of which they are unloaded, and the goods are carted from thence, along a road on the borders of the river, as far as the village of the Cedars, a distance of five miles. Artificers and labourers, under the direction of a royal engineer, have, for some time past, been employed on the extension and improvement of these locks, which, when completed, will much tend to facilitate the transport, and communication with the upper country.

The cascades are about two miles in length, and flow among three different islands. The rapidity and force of the stream, arising from the great declivity of its bed, and the number of rocks and cavities which it contains, causes it to break into masses of white foam, moving in a direction the reverse of that of waves produced in a troubled ocean, by the agency of storms. They curl their resplendent tops, towards the quarter from whence they are im-

pelled. The mind of a stranger is filled with admiration, on beholding, in the calmest, and finest weather, all the noise, effect, and agitation, which the most violent conflict between the winds and waters, is capable of exhibiting.

In a branch of these cascades, near the locks on the western shore, several bateaux, loaded with soldiers belonging to the army under the command of the late Lord Amherst, were lost in 1760, through ignorance of the pilots who undertook to conduct them. Somewhat higher up, on the same coast of the river, and not far from the land, is the Split Rock, close to which, the boats pass, in descending. The current sweeps along the side of this rock, and great attention in steering is required, for, on a too near approach, the bateau would be subject to the danger of being lost.

The rapids of the Cedars, are about three miles distant from the highest part of the Cascades, and are formed amid a cluster of islands. The river, for about a mile and a half above, assumes a sudden declivity and a winding course. An awful and solemn effect is produced, by the incessant sound, and rapid motion of the ever-swelling waves, which, covered with effulgent whiteness, drive along with irresistible fury. The empty bateaux are here dragged successively with ropes, by the joint efforts of eight or ten men to each, who walk up the shore, until they arrive at

G. Heriot Esqr. pinx^t.

F. C. Lewis sculp.

Cascades of the St. Lawrence.

the village, near which these rapids commence. In descending, the bateaux are steered near the western shore, to avoid the tremendous and more broken swell, which in some places, is interspersed with rocks. Although this course is not unaccompanied by danger, the Canadians are in general so experienced and expert, that an accident almost never occurs.

The village of the Cedars is charmingly situated on the banks of the Saint Lawrence; it contains a church, and about fifty houses. The appearance of the waters, and of the rich and verdant islands around which they wind their course, exhibits an assemblage uncommonly interesting, and the glistening rapids of the *Coteau du Lac*, give a lively termination to the scene. The current from the latter place, to the Cedars, is, in most situations so powerful, that the bateau men are necessitated to make use of their setting poles, which are about seven feet in length, and shod with iron. As the current impels the vessel towards the shore, the men place them along that side which is inwards, and push it forward, by the pressure of each upon his poll, at the same instant; the bateau, by these united efforts, is forced up the stream, and the impulsive movement is continued, by thus setting the poles in the bed of the waters, and by a reiteration of the same exertions. This operation, although fatiguing and laborious in the extreme, they will prolong for the

space of several hours. When the current is too powerful for the use of poles, the bateau is dragged by a long rope, the men engaged in this office, walking, as has been before described, along the banks of the river. In the less rapid streams, the oars are used, and when the wind is favourable, and the current not strong, recourse is had to the sail.

At the Coteau du Lac Saint François, the bateaux again ascend by locks, where a certain duty is payable on spirituous liquors, wines and some other articles, imported into Upper Canada, although the limits of that province are placed some miles higher up.

By the interposition of islands, the river here divides itself into three considerable branches, in which the furious, noisy waters, dashing with ceaseless impetuosity, cover the surface of the streams with broken clouds of foam. The bateaux, in descending, pass close under the banks of an island opposite to the locks, and present to a stranger who may be looking from the shore, a singular appearance, as they are only partially discoverable, while darting along, amid the swelling and agitated torrent. After passing a point of land above the rapids, Lake Saint Francis discloses itself to the eye. On the north side, and about the middle of its extent, is situated *Pointe au Bodet*, the boundary between the two provinces, which was here fixed, in order to comprehend within Lower Ca-

nada, all seignorial grants under the French tenure, and that the new townships which were laid out for the loyalists, should be within Upper Canada, in which all lands are granted, in free and common soccage. The length of the lake is about twenty-five miles, and its greatest width, about fifteen, its borders are flat, and in some situations, the land on either side can scarcely be distinguished by travellers passing along its center.

The Indian settlement, called St. Regis, is placed on the south side, at the upper extremity of the lake, in latitude forty-five degrees, in a rich and beautiful country; the boundary line between Canada and the United States, passes through it. A missionary from the seminary of Quebec is stationed among the Indians.

The first township * in Upper Canada is called Lancaster, upon the north shore of Lake Saint Francis, watered by three small rivers, extending nine miles in front, towards the lake, and twelve miles in depth. The adjoining settlement of Charlottenburg, has, in its front, several small islands, and is watered by two branches of the river *aux Raisins*, which winds its course through a considerable part of the township, until it joins the lake. Between the

* A township is a certain tract of land containing from 20,000 to 40,000 acres, granted by government to individuals, upon specified conditions. This word is therefore sometimes applied to situations where settlements have scarcely been commenced.

latter settlement, and Cornwall, a narrow tract intervenes, which is the property of the Indians of Saint Regis. An island, named *Petite Isle*, is situated opposite to their village, and another more considerable, named *Grande Isle Saint Regis*, lies somewhat higher up, and in front of the township of Cornwall. This village or town, as it is termed, is intended to be a mile square, and the houses already built, extend along the banks of a branch of the Saint Lawrence, which here forms a bay. In this vicinity are several islands besides the two already mentioned. These are denominated *Isles aux milles Roches*, and *des Cheneaux Ecartées*; the township of Kenyon, is in the rear of the former settlement, and Roxburgh, in that of the latter.

In the adjoining township of Osnabruck, the river aux Raisins has its source; and in the vicinity of this settlement, are the *Ile au Longue Sault*, *Iles des trois Cheneaux Ecartées*, *Iles au Diable*, and *Ile au Chat*.

The channel of the river becomes in this situation very steep, and the waters, intersected and contracted between these islands, rush along with prodigious velocity. The bateaux, in ascending, are always conducted by the north shore, and through the more shallow parts, that the men may use their setting poles, and in many places, it becomes necessary to disembark, and drag them by ropes.

The noise, the continual motion, and magnitude of its

contending waves, render the *Longue Sault*, at once an object of terror and delight; these burst upon each other, and tossing aloft their broken spray, cover the stream with a white and troubled surface, as far as the eye can extend. From a point of land, on the north shore, formed by the sinuosities of the stream, much grandeur is displayed. The bank is here about fifty feet high, and commands a view of the principal branch of the river, for a distance of two or three miles; in which the effulgence of the impetuous current, is beautifully contrasted, with the bordering shades of the woods. Throughout the same distance, much labour and exertion is required in dragging forward the bateaux, after they have passed through a mill-stream on the bank. Towards the south shore, which is separated by islands from the branch now described, the stream is much less broken, and its depth precludes the use of poles. It is through this channel that the bateaux pass, in their return from Kingston. The length of the *Longue Sault* is estimated at nine miles, and a boat usually descends it, in about twenty minutes, which is at the rate of twenty-seven miles an hour.

The south shore is, in general, covered with its native woods, and it is only at considerable distances from each other, that settlements are interspersed. Williamsburg on the north shore, is the adjoining township to Osnabruck, and has before it *Ile au rapid Plat*, the west end of

which is opposite to the next settlement, Matilda. Here are also some smaller islands, and a peninsula, which, when the river is very full, becomes surrounded by water.

The village of Johnstown, which is near a mile in length, and designed to extend a mile in breadth, is placed in the township of Edwardsburg. From hence, decked vessels of considerable burthen may be navigated to Kingston, from thence to Niagara, or to any part of Lake Ontario. The islands opposite to this township are numerous; the principal are Hospital island, and *Isle du Forte Levy*, where the French formerly had a small garrison, to defend the lower settlements, from the irruptions of the Iroquois. *La Galotte*, is a part of the great river, in which the current flows with much rapidity, although the waters are, in very few places, broken.

Oswegatchie, formerly a military post belonging to the British government, was given up to that of the United States in 1796. It stands on the south shore, nearly opposite to New Johnstown. It is now known by the name Ogdensburg, and is the county town in which the circuit courts are held. The St. Lawrence, whose breadth is here about four miles, receives into its bosom the Black river. On the borders of the latter are situated some houses, inhabited by about a hundred natives of the Iroquois tribe, who are usually termed Oswegatchie Indians.

Elizabeth town, a settlement on the north side, which joins the township of Augusta, is well watered by three

rivers, the most considerable of which takes its rise from a little lake, and is called the Tonianta, the *Iles du Barril*, being contiguous to it. On the south-east angle of the township of Yonge, the latter river disembogues itself into the Saint Lawrence. Landsdown, adjoining to the last settlement, contains many small streams, and the great river, for an extent of several miles, from near Kingston, as far down as Augusta, is interspersed by a multitude of isles; as it spreads itself to a width, in some places, of ten or twelve miles, this part has acquired the name of the lake of the Thousand Islands, which may be said to be only a prolongation of Lake Ontario.

The river Gamansque, deriving its source from a lake of the same name, takes its course through the township of Leeds, and possesses, at its mouth, a good harbour for vessels.

Between the last named settlement and Kingston, Pittsburg intervenes. Howe island stretches, in a long, and narrow form, near the front of these two townships. From Pointe au Bodet to Kingston, the distance is one hundred and twenty miles, and in that space are contained above eighty water mills, the most considerable of which are erected upon the river Gananoque. Roads have, some years ago, been opened, and wooden bridges constructed over the intervening creeks and rivers. From *Point au Bodet* downwards, a way for travellers on horseback, has been cut through the woods, which is yet scarcely practi-

cable for wheeled carriages. Many parts of this road, as well as of those in the vicinity of Kingston, are at times rendered almost impassable by considerable falls of rain, the altitude of the trees on each side precluding the rays of the sun. After a fall of snow, in winter, travelling by land is rendered much more easy.

Settlements have been commenced, in upwards of thirty other townships, situated in the rear of those already mentioned, and on the southward of the Outaouais, or Great River, upon whose margin, many of them terminate. Others are watered by the river Rideau, and by that of Petite Nation, with the lakes and streams of the Gananoque, affording a variety of places, convenient for the erection of mills. These rivers abound in carp, sturgeon and perch; the ponds afford green, and other turtle, likewise fish of different species. The soils in their vicinity produce timber, whose quality depends on position and fertility. The dry lands, which are usually the most elevated, afford growth to oak, and hickory: the low grounds produce walnut, ash, poplar, cherry, sycamore, beech, maple, elm, and other woods, and in some places, there are swamps, covered by cedar and cypress trees.

The banks of the small rivers and creeks abound in pine timber of an excellent kind, and present several situations for water-mills, as well as materials for their construction. The sources of the rivers Rideau and Petite Nation, both of which flow into the Outaouais, commu-

nicate, by short carrying places, with the streams which fall into the Saint Lawrence, and offer to settlers the advantages of an inland navigation. The forks of the Rideau, in whose vicinity are the townships of Oxford, Marlborough, and Gower, seem calculated to facilitate, at some future period, an interior commerce.

CHAPTER VII.

DESCRIPTION OF KINGSTON IN UPPER CANADA—LAKE ONTARIO—BAY OF QUINTE—EXCELLENCE OF ITS SOIL—TORONTO, OR YORK, THE CAPITAL—BURLINGTON BAY—RIVER ONONDAGO—ROMANTIC CASCADES—GENESEE RIVER—WATERFALL—FORTS AND TOWN OF NIAGARA—SUPERIOR ADVANTAGES ENJOYED BY SETTLERS ON THE BANKS OF THE SAINT LAWRENCE—RAPID INCREASE OF POPULATION, AND PROSPEROUS STATE OF THE PROVINCE—QUEENSTOWN—THE WHIRLPOOL—STUPENDOUS MAJESTY OF THE FALLS OF NIAGARA—CASCADES—VILLAGE OF CHIPPAWA.

KINGSTON is charmingly situated on the northern coast of the Saint Lawrence, not far from Lake Ontario, in north latitude, forty-four degrees, eight minutes, and in west longitude from Greenwich, seventy-five degrees, forty-one minutes. This town was begun in the year 1784, upwards of twenty-one years ago, and has continued, ever since that period, to advance in a progressive state of improvement, to which the judicious choice of situation, and the fertility of the lands in its vicinity, have, doubtless, greatly contributed. Besides several commodious dwellings, constructed of stone of an excellent quality, it contains a barrack for troops, a gaol and court-house, an episcopal church, an hospital, and several

extensive storehouses. At this place the vessels belonging to government, used in navigating Lake Ontario, are constructed; and from hence, merchandise and other articles which are conveyed from the lower province, in bateaux, are embarked to be transported to Niagara, York, and other settlements bordering on the lake. The largest vessels employed in this service, do not exceed two hundred tons burthen, but the usual size, is from eighty to a hundred tons. At Kingston, there are two coves or inlets, where vessels come to anchor, and on which wharfs are constructed, for loading, or discharging their cargoes. That appropriated for the vessels of government, is at some distance from the town, and is formed by a promontory on the east, and a peninsula, called Point Frederick. On this are placed the naval store, and yard for building these vessels. A master builder, with some artificers, resides upon the spot, and is kept in constant employ. The house of the deputy commissary, and those of some other persons in the service, stand likewise upon this peninsula. The other cove, much more considerable than the last, is formed between the town and the point already mentioned. Both of these inlets are exposed, when the wind blows with violence from the south, or south-west, and drives before it from the lake, a succession of swelling billows.

The number of vessels here, in the king's service, is at present not more than three, two of which are appropri-

ated for the military, and one for the civil department. Each vessel carries from ten to twenty guns. The senior commander is stiled commodore. As all kinds of timber have a tendency to decay, much sooner in fresh, than in salt water; a vessel navigating the lakes, will not last above six years, unless she be made to undergo considerable repairs. As those in the employ of government receive no repairs in their hulls, they are generally laid up at the expiration of that period, and are replaced by other vessels entirely new.

The rapid advancement of the country in population and improvements of every description, has proportionally extended the commerce; the number of vessels in the employ of the merchants is considerable. These are usually built about ten miles below Kingston, and the timber used for their construction is red cedar or oak.

Grande Isle, now called Wolfe Island, not far from the town, is the largest which occurs between Montreal and Lake Huron. The timber found here, and on the south shore of the main land, is red oak, butternut, maple, ash, elm, and small pine. Carleton island, of small extent, intervenes between the latter and the south shore, and was formerly occupied as a military station; it has on either side a channel of sufficient depth for vessels, and two excellent harbours. It now properly belongs to the United States, as the boundary line of that government passes

through the centre of Grande Isle. It contained a stone fort, with barracks of the same materials, storehouses, and other structures.

One of the smaller islands, opposite to Kingston, abounds with insects called ticks, resembling the little animal of the same name, found upon cattle in Europe, but of a much larger size. In summer, these insects spread themselves over the surface of the ground, over the trees, the herbage, and the rocks. They climb upon every object in their way, and to man their effects are highly disagreeable, particularly if they gain the head, from whence they are with difficulty dislodged. Without producing any degree of pain, they will gradually insinuate themselves beneath the skin, and there establish their quarters. To horses or cattle, which have been sent to graze on this island, the ticks, from their multitudes, have been frequently fatal.

The town which we have described, is, by some, called Cataroquoy, the Indian name, and was formerly known by that of Frontenac, from a count of the same title, who was twice Governor-general of Canada. The lake was also, for a long time known by the same appellation. A small fort was many years ago established in this situation, with the design of checking the incursions of the Iroquois, and of diverting, in favour of the French, the commerce for peltry, which these savages conducted be-

tween the more northern and western tribes, and the inhabitants of New York, who could supply for that purpose various articles of European manufacture, on terms much more reasonable than the former colonists.

The fort was originally built of stone, by M. de la Sale, celebrated for his discoveries, but yet more for his misfortunes, who was *Seigneur* of Cataroquoy, and governor of the place. This establishment was not of long duration, and was of little avail towards impeding the ravages of the Iroquois.

Lake Ontario is in length, one hundred and sixty miles, and in circumference, about four hundred and fifty. Its depth in many places, remains unascertained. The center has been sounded, with a line of three hundred and fifty fathoms, without finding bottom. The islands which it contains are Amherst island, Basque, Carleton, Petit Cataroquoy, Cedar island, Isle Cauchois, Isle au Cochon, Isle du Chêne, Duck islands, Grenadier Island, Isles au Galloo, Isle la Force, Isle au Forêt, Gage island, Howe island, Nicholas island, Orphan island, Isle de Quinté, Isle Tonti, Isles aux Tourtes, Wolfe island or Grande isle, and Wapoose island. The land on the north-east coast of Lake Ontario, is low, and in some situations marshy. The inlets, or little bays, are, from their position, considerably exposed to the swell of the waters, and the influence of the winds.

The vicinity of Kingston affords valuable quarries of durable white stone, and the soil in general is intermixed with rocks, a circumstance which, however, is not prejudicial to its productive quality.

Ernest town is opposite to Amherst island, and is watered by two small rivers. Camden lies on its north side, and Richmond on its west; the river Appenee, on which there are excellent mills, runs through the two last townships. The bay of Quinté is formed by the peninsula of Prince Edward, by another peninsula, containing part of the townships of Adolphus and Frederick, and by the continent on the north, comprehending the townships of Mohawks, Thurlow, and Sidney. This bay affords, throughout its winding extent, a safe and commodious harbour, sheltered from the storms by which the lake is frequently agitated. The river Moira here empties itself, after having traversed the township of Thurlow; the Trent, formerly called the Quinté, the outlet of several small lakes, flows into the head of the bay, at the eastward of the isthmus, or carrying place. Part of one of the tribes of Mohawks, or Iroquois, has a settlement in the township. This tract is nine miles in front on the bay, and about twelve miles in depth. A chief, named Captain John, is at the head of those natives, who, preferring this situation, separated from the rest of their tribe, whose village is on the Grand River, or Ouse, which

disembogues its waters into the north-east side of Lake Erie.

On the south side of the Trent, there are salt-springs, waters impregnated with salt have likewise been found in other situations in this province, but the salt which has been produced from them was found by no means to possess the properties of that procured from the water of the ocean, and a great part of the provisions which have been cured with it, and sent in barrels to Quebec, for the use of the troops, has been found, on inspection, unfit for use.

The exuberance of the soil around the Bay of Quinté, amply rewards the toils of the farmer; it is worked with facility, and produces many crops, without the application of manure. The usual produce is twenty-five bushels of wheat, for one acre. The timber consists of oak, elm, hickory, maple, and pines of different species. The bay is narrow throughout its whole extent, which is upwards of fifty miles, and is navigable for those vessels which are used upon the lake. An apparent tide is frequently observable here, as well as in some parts of the upper lakes, a circumstance probably occasioned by the impulse of the winds. Great quantities of wild fowl are found in this situation, and excellent fish of different species; salmon is caught in the river Trent, but of an inferior quality, on account of its immense distance from the sea. The isthmus of the peninsula of Prince Edward

being extremely narrow, it is intended that a canal shall be cut across it, between the bay already described, and a small and beautiful lake, which communicates with Lake Ontario.

The harbour of Newcastle, is formed by the township of Cramahé, and Presque Isle. Between the township of Sidney, and the latter, that of Murray intervenes. Those of Haldimand, Hamilton, and Hope, are beautified and fertilized by a variety of little streams, upon some of which, mills are erected. Clarke, Darlington, Whitby, and Pickering, follow in succession, in proceeding to the westward; at the latter, there is a productive salmon and sturgeon fishery, in a river called Duffin's Creek, which is usually open, and large enough for the reception of boats, at most seasons of the year. The township of Scarborough presents banks of much greater elevation towards the lake, than any part of the northern coast of that vast collection of waters. All the townships already noticed, are copiously watered by rivulets, at whose mouths there are ponds, and low lands, capable of being drained, and converted into meadows. In the rear of the township of Murray, is that of Seymour; and Cramahé, Haldimand, and Hamilton, have contiguous to them on the northward, the townships of Percy, Alnwick, and Dives. Behind Scarborough, there is a German settlement upon the river

New, which, flowing through Pickering, disembogues itself into the lake.

York, or Toronto, the seat of government in Upper Canada, is placed in forty-three degrees and thirty-five minutes of north latitude, near the bottom of a harbour of the same name. A long and narrow peninsula, distinguished by the appellation of Gibraltar Point, forms, and embraces this harbour, securing it from the storms of the lake, and rendering it the safest of any, around the coasts of that sea of fresh waters. Stores and block-houses are constructed near the extremity of this point. A spot called the garrison, stands on a bank of the main land, opposite to the point, and consists only of a wooden block-house, and some small cottages of the same materials, little superior to temporary huts. The house in which the Lieutenant-governor resides, is likewise formed of wood, in the figure of a half square, of one story in height, with galleries in the center. It is sufficiently commodious for the present state of the province, and is erected upon a bank of the lake, near the mouth of Toronto bay. The town, according to the plan, is projected to extend to a mile and a half in length, from the bottom of the harbour, along its banks. Many houses are already completed, some of which display a considerable degree of taste. The advancement of this place to its present condition, has been effected within the lapse

of six or seven years, and persons who have formerly travelled in this part of the country, are impressed with sentiments of wonder, on beholding a town which may be termed handsome, reared as if by enchantment, in the midst of a wilderness. Two buildings of brick at the eastern extremity of the town, which were designed as wings to a center, are occupied as chambers for the upper and lower house of assembly. The scene from this part of the basin, is agreeable and diversified; a block-house, situated upon a wooded bank, forms the nearest object; part of the town, points of land cloathed with spreading oak-trees, gradually receding from the eye, one behind another, until terminated by the buildings of the garrison and the spot on which the governor's residence is placed, compose the objects on the right. The left side of the view comprehends the long peninsula which incloses this sheet of water, beautiful on account of its placidity, and rotundity of form; the distant lake, which appears bounded only by the sky, terminates the whole.

A rivulet, called the Don, runs in the vicinity of the town, and there are likewise other springs by which this settlement is watered. Yonge-street, or the military way leading to Lake Simcoe, and from thence to Glocester-bay on Lake Huron, commences in the rear of the town. This communication, which, in time, will be productive

of great utility to the commerce of the country, is opened as far as Lake Simcoe, and as it is considerably shorter than the circuitous route, by the straits of Niagara, Lake Erie, and Detroit, must become the great channel of intercourse from this part of the province, to the north-west county. Lots of two hundred acres are laid out on each side of Yonge-street, every lot having the width of four hundred yards on the street. Gwillimbury, a settlement in the interior part of the country, is thirty-two miles to the northward of York, and communicates with Lake Simcoe, through Holland river, which runs into Cook's bay on that lake. Somewhat to the westward, there are plains thinly planted with oak-trees, where the Indians cultivate corn. As the lake opens on the eye of the traveller, some small islands disclose themselves, of which Darling's, in the eastern part, is the most considerable. To the westward, there is a large, deep bay, called Kempenfelt's, from whose upper extremity is a short carrying-place to the river Nottuasague, which discharges itself into Iroquois bay, on Lake Huron. Francis island is placed on the north end of the former lake, and a safe anchorage for vessels is presented between it and the shore. The shortest road to Lake Huron, is across a small neck of land, which separates Lake Simcoe from a smaller lake. The Matchedash river, which has its source in the former, affords a more circuitous passage to the northward and westward, and is, in every part,

navigable for boats of any size, excepting at the rapids, which present situations for mills. The soil, on either side of this river, is of an inferior quality. It discharges itself into a bay of the same name, to the eastward, which receives also, North and South rivers, and forms a junction with a yet larger basin, already noticed, called Glocester, or Sturgeon bay, in the mouth of which lies Prince William Henry's island, open to Lake Huron. On a peninsula, in this basin, ruins of a French settlement are yet extant; the harbour of Penetangushene, is formed between two promontories, around which there is soil well suited for cultivation. This harbour possesses sufficient depth of water, and the anchorage for vessels, is safe. The township of Markham, in the rear of York and Scarborough, is settled by Germans.

To the westward of the garrison of York, are the remains of an old French fort, called Toronto; adjoining to this situation there is a deep bay, receiving into it the river Humber, between which, and the head of Lake Ontario, the Tobyco, the Credit, and two other rivers, with a number of smaller streams, join that immense body of waters. These abound in fish, particularly in salmon, for which the Credit is celebrated; a house of entertainment for passengers, is established on the banks of this river.

The tract of territory between the Tobyco, and the

head of the lake, is frequented only by erratic tribes of Missasagues, which descend from the northward. Burlington bay is formed by a point of land extending from south to north, leaving only a small outlet, which connects it with the lake. Over this a wooden bridge is constructed, and at the south end of the beach, an inn, called the King's-head, is kept for the accommodation of travellers.

The bay now mentioned, presents a combination of objects, as beautiful and romantic in their kind, as any which the interior of America can boast. A bold, rocky, and picturesque promontory, separates it from a marshy lake, called Coot's Paradise, which abounds in game, and pours thither the tribute of its waters. Between Burlington bay and Niagara, a multitude of small rivers join the lake, the most distinguished of which, are those called the Twelve and the Twenty. These rivers, previous to their departure from their channels, spread themselves behind elevated beaches which impede their courses, and finding only a small opening through which to flow, become dammed up, and form spacious basins within; their banks are elevated, but not rugged, and are generally covered with pine-trees of a large growth. The tract bordering on this part of the lake, is denominated the county of Lincoln; and contains twenty townships which are well settled, and rapidly increasing in population.

The traveller, by entering Lake Ontario on the east, meets with Grenadier Island, at the distance of eighteen miles from Kingston, and near the southern coast; which is, properly speaking, the right bank of the Saint Lawrence, in its course towards the ocean; this island is a league in length from east to west, and is about sixty yards from the shore. In pursuing this route, the first river which presents itself, flows into the lake from a north-east direction, in ascending whose course about two leagues and a half, a waterfall of twenty-five feet in height becomes disclosed to the view; a swamp is found near its summit. The depth of water in the river, is from three to one fathom; the banks are rocky, but the soil above them, gives sufficient indications of fertility. The entrance of the river is six acres wide, contracting by degrees to one acre, and becoming yet more narrow at the fall. Somewhat to the westward, the largest of the Isles au Galloo is situated, which, with a peninsula on the main coast, forms a harbour for vessels, having a depth of from five, to seven fathoms of water, and a good bottom for anchorage. Proceeding around the coast to a bay running east-north-east, we sounded from the north point to a small island, and found its breadth three acres, having from five to ten fathoms of water, with a muddy bottom. Large vessels might anchor near the shore on either side, but that on the south is most secure, on account of a penin-

sula which precludes the effects of stormy weather. Two miles and an half from hence, another bay occurs, in ascending which there is a river with islands of rock at its entrance, whose rapidity increases in proportion to the distance from its mouth, and renders it necessary to have recourse to setting poles, to push the canoe up the stream. For fifteen acres up its course the water is three fathoms deep, but decreases to four feet in the rapid parts. The rocks on each side, are at least forty feet in altitude. On the south shore the land rises yet more considerably, and gives growth to forests of fine oak timber. Villiers bay is about two miles wide at its entrance, and contains from six to seven fathoms of water, with a clayey bottom. Not far from hence there is yet another bay, whose position is towards the south, being half a mile in breadth, with five fathoms in depth of water. The land here assumes a bolder aspect, rising for near a mile of extent, into cliffs of upwards of eighty feet high, and afterwards gradually declining. The soil on their summits is fertile, producing woods of a hard nature. The name of the last mentioned bay, is Hungry bay, or *Baye de la Famine*, so called by M. de la Barre, Governor-general of Canada, who, in 1684, on an expedition against the Iroquois, lost, in this situation, a great part of his army, which perished from hunger and sickness. A considerable stream called Black river, pours itself into this bay, and about two leagues

further to the southward, another branch of the same river joins its waters with the lake. The channel between the first, or most easterly isle of Galloo, and the south shore, being large, with from eight to ten fathoms of water, vessels may with safety be steered through it. To the westward of this there are two other isles of the same name, and between these, two smaller isles, with a good channel intervening. Several rivulets occur, in coasting between the western promontory of Hungry bay, and the river Onondago, which is placed near thirty miles from thence, and falls into the lake in latitude forty-three degrees and twenty minutes. The channel at the entrance is twelve feet in depth, and twenty-four within. It is the discharge of several small rivers and lakes, of which the most considerable is that of Oneida. On ascending the river, whose channel is bounded by banks of great elevation, a waterfall, eighty feet high, and half a mile in breadth, presents itself to the view. At the distance of two acres above, there is a second fall, which, although not more than twenty-five feet high, is beautifully romantic. The brilliancy of the foaming waters, which throw themselves with the most rapid motion over the perpendicular rocks, produces an effect magnificent and charming, and sheds a gleam of delight over the mind of the wearied traveller. Amid the variety of sensations, which scenes like this contribute to excite, is that of surprise, that a fluid body

should for ages have continued to move with such a velocity, without a failure of the sources from whence it is supplied.

> "Rusticus expectat dum defluit amnis, ast illa
> "Volvitur, et volvetur, in omne volubilis ævum."

The timber in this vicinity consists principally of white and red oak, and chesnut. The soil above is level, and of a fertile nature. Fort Oswego is erected on a lofty bank, on the eastern side of this river, and is upwards of forty-five miles from Kingston. The old fort, of which no vestige remains, was built in 1722, by a gentleman named Burnet, son of the celebrated bishop, who obtained for this purpose, permission of the Iroquois in whose territory it was situated. It formed a key to Hudson's river, on the north, and protected against the French, the trade with the Indians who inhabited the borders of the lake. The bar between the spot where this defence stood, and the new fort, is eighty feet in width, and twelve feet in depth. The fort was delivered over to the American government in 1794. It was taken by the French in 1756, when a great part of the garrison was massacred by the savages. Beyond the fort, for about a mile, the depth of water is from four to five fathoms, augmenting further up to nine fathoms.

Pursuing our voyage, we arrived at a large bay with a

beautiful entrance from the lake, and ascended in quest of a river, but found only swampy grounds. This bay is two miles deep, having four and a half feet of water on the bar at the entrance, and from three to four fathoms, with a muddy bottom within. The points facing the lake are steep, and of considerable altitude, composed of strata of stone and earth. The depth about half a mile from the shore is eight fathoms, with a sandy bottom.

The bay of Goyogouin lies about sixteen miles to the westward of Onondago, and exhibits an aspect of fertility. It is five miles in extent, and two miles and a half in width, within the points of entrance. Near the west point, there are twelve and thirteen feet water on the bar, but the center has no more than seven and a half feet. A peninsula well wooded, elevated, and in the form of a crescent, advances into the bay, and on entering it on the left there is a small island. No river was found in this situation.

Irondiquet bay is four miles to the eastward of the Genesee river. The depth at the distance of three miles from the coast is eighteen fathoms. The entrance of the bay is flat, with four feet of water on its bar. The eastern side has many branches, and terminates in swamps. The river, at the southern extremity, discharges itself with a very gentle current.

The Genesee or Casconchiagon, by some persons called

the New River, is narrow, and contains not much water at its mouth on Lake Ontario ; it however enlarges itself above, and forms a basin of sufficient depth to float vessels of two hundred tons. On ascending its course about two leagues, a fall of sixty feet in altitude, and occupying the whole breadth of the river, obtrudes itself on the view, and commands the admiration of the traveller. It pours, with plaintive sound, over a rock almost perpendicular, and, broken amid the variety of its movements, produces a curtain of resplendent whiteness. On pursuing the channel still higher up, many rapids and cascades present themselves throughout the numerous sinuosities of its course. From the source of this river, which runs upwards of three hundred miles, the Ohio is distant only thirty miles. The timber produced in the vicinity of the mouth of the Genesee, consists chiefly of white and red oak and chesnut The soil above the fall is rather flat, and is of a fertile nature.

At *Pointe aux Tourtes* there are two large swamps, into each of which two small rivers flow. A stream of the same name as the point is forty feet wide at its entrance, and the land around it is swampy. The river *aux Bœuf*, has an entrance of forty feet wide, with three feet of water, on a rocky and gravelly bottom ; the bed, for four miles up its course, is three fathoms in depth, but diminishes by degrees until cascades are met with ; it flows in a serpen-

tine course from the south-west. The banks produce red pine fit for the masts of small vessels, and there are white oak-trees near its embouchure. Johnson's creek is about three miles from the last river, and its banks are well cloathed with ash, aspin, and cherry-trees.

The entrance of *aux Ecluses* is broad and shallow, the depth being sufficient to admit bateaux only. The scenery here exhibited is agreeable; the land assuming a gentle slope, and being of great fertility, produces large oak timber without any underwood. On exploring about two miles, we found cascades, the first of which forms three branches, resembling sluices of considerable height. At the bar there were no more than two feet of water, and at half a mile from the coast, the soundings were three fathoms.

The old fort of Niagara, which was erected by the French in 1751, is placed in forty-three degrees and fifteen minutes of north latitude, on an angle which is formed by the east side of the Saint Lawrence and the vast diffusion of its waters into the lake. It is erected in the country of the Iroquois, and was for a series of years considered as the key to those inland seas of fresh water, which occupy so vast a portion of this part of North America. The ramparts of the fort are composed of earth and pickets, and contain within them a lofty stone building, which is occupied for barracks and for store-rooms. The Ame-

ricans are in possession of it, but seem to take no measures either for its repair or enlargement. As the waters of the lake make progressive encroachments on the sandy bank whose summit it occupies, the foundations of the buildings will, in a short time, be undermined. This fort was taken from the French in 1759 by Sir William Johnson.

On the western bank, about a mile higher up the river, the British fort is situated on ground several feet more elevated than the last. It is likewise constructed of earth and cedar pickets, and the buildings contained in it are executed with much neatness, taste, and accommodation. On the border of the river, and beneath the fort, there are several buildings consisting of store-houses and barracks, one of which is called Navy Hall, and is contiguous to a wharf, where vessels load and unload. A swamp in the vicinity becomes, at particular seasons, from the stagnated vapours exhaled from it, prejudicial to the health of those whose residence is by the river, and sometimes to that of troops in the garrison. A plain, whose extent in every direction is near a mile, intervenes between the town of Niagara and Fort George, the name of the fortress already described. The houses are in general composed of wood, and have a neat and clean appearance; their present number may amount to near two hundred. The streets are spacious, and laid out at right angles to each other, so

G. Heriot Esqr. pinx^t.

F. C. Lewis sculp.

British Fort at Niagara.

(taken from the East Bank of the St. Lawrence.)

that the town when completed will be healthful and airy. On Missisague Point, which is on the west side of he mouth of the river, a light-house, for the guidance of vessels which navigate the lake, has lately been erected. Near this point, white fish and black bass are caught in great abundance.

In proceeding from the town of Niagara to the southward, along the banks of the great river, many attractions combine to present pleasure and amusement to the mind of an observant traveller. The soil, the variety of situations, and the improvements of that part of the country, seem to surpass every impression which information alone might produce in its favour. The population is already considerable, and is rapidly augmenting. Families from the United States are daily coming into the province, bringing with them their stock and utensils of husbandry, in order to establish themselves on new lands, invited by the exuberance of the soil, the mildness of the government, and an almost total exemption from taxes. These people either purchase lands from the British subjects, to whom they have been granted, or take them upon lease, paying the rent by a certain portion of the produce.

Many farmers from the neighbouring states, who are wealthy, procure grants of their own, and taking the oaths of supremacy and allegiance, become subjects of the crown of Great Britain.

Men born and educated in the northern states of America, are of the greatest utility in the settlement of a new country, as they are endowed with a spirit for adventure, activity, industry, and perseverance, rarely to be equalled. Nor are they deficient in the power of inventive faculty, particularly when applied to mechanical objects. In travelling, the waggon is by many made to serve the end, not only of a house during the journey, but likewise of a vessel, to cross the rivers which are not fordable. The seams of the body are secured against the admission of water, and when applied to this latter purpose, the wheels are taken off, it is conducted by rowing to the opposite shore, and the horses and cattle are made to follow it by swimming. The settlers who bring into the province the largest property in money and stock, generally come from the back parts of Virginia, and even from the Carolinas.

In the use of the axe the Americans display uncommon dexterity, and hew down the largest trees of the forests with admirable address and expedition. Retaining no attachment for any particular situation, an American farmer, who is not of the first class, will sell his lands, after having cleared and brought them to a state of cultivation, if he can procure for them a reasonable profit for his toils. He then decamps, launches into the woods in quest of a new possession, and erects another habitation.

The immense tracts of woods, filled with oak timber,

which everywhere present themselves, are certain indications of the fertility of the soil. The common produce of the fields is, in general, from thirty to forty for one in wheat or any other grain; and portions of land which have, for upwards of sixteen successive years, yielded their harvest without the aid of manure, still continue, with forty to one, to reward the industry of the husbandman.

The winters in this part of the country are inconsiderable, either for duration or severity, the snow seldom remaining on the ground for a longer period than five or fix weeks.

About the year 1800, before the means of transport to the lower province became facilitated and improved, the inhabitants were at a loss to dispose of the produce of their farms. Since that period many thousand barrels of flour, quantities of salted beef and pork, butter and cheese, pot-ash, and numbers of live cattle, have annually been conveyed to Lower Canada, through the rapids and cascades of the Saint Lawrence, upon rafts of timber, containing from five hundred to eight hundred barrels each, and upon scows, a superior species of raft constructed of plank, without receiving from the waters any material injury. The conducting of that mode of transport, although at first difficult and unwieldy, has now become more familiar, and immense quantities of produce continue to flow every year into the lower province.

There are attached to settlements on the borders of the Saint Lawrence, advantages of transport superior to those of any inland country in America. The soil is unquestionably of the first quality, and is sufficiently varied by swells and ridges, to take off that sameness of effect which would result from a dead level country. Winter wheat is produced with the greatest certainty. The grain is heavier and more plump than any that is raised in the territories of the United States, except such as border upon this immense river. Grass is very natural to this country, and cattle fatten in summer upon the wild growth. Hemp and flax are produced in great perfection. The timber consists of oak, pine in all its varieties, sugar and curled maple, beech, basswood, hickory, black and white ash, sassafras, black and white birch, elm, walnut-tree, butternut-tree, cherry-tree, and a variety of other woods.

The winter season is employed by the farmer in making staves for casks, squaring timber, or preparing plank and boards, all of which may be disposed of to advantage at Montreal. In the spring the timber is formed into rafts, which are loaded with produce, and conducted down the river with great certainty, at any period during the summer season, without the inconvenience of waiting for a freshet, or an increase of the waters by rains, which can have

but small influence on so vast a body. This circumstance alone adds a value to the establishments on its borders; for on all other rivers, except those of the first magnitude, they who mean to conduct rafts down their stream are compelled to be ready at the moment of a swell of the waters; and if they be so unfortunate as not to be prepared, an opportunity of carrying to market the productions of their farms becomes lost to them for the whole year: it likewise not unfrequently happens with many rivers, that the spring freshets are not sufficiently high to render it safe to venture down them. The farmer on the Saint Lawrence is assured he can send a barrel of flour for four shillings, and a barrel of potash for eight shillings, to the ship which comes from Europe.

In many branches of husbandry, the settlers of this country seem to display a superior degree of skill, and fields of corn are here to be seen, as luxuriant and fine as in any part of the universe.

The mode of commencing a settlement is by cutting down the smaller wood, and some of the large trees, collecting them into heaps, and burning them. Some of the remaining trees are girdled, by cutting a groove all around through the bark, to impede the sap from mounting, and thus deprived of nourishment, the branches cease to grow, and the leaves decay and fall to the ground. After passing a harrow over the soil, in order to turn it up, the grain

is sown, the harrow is again used, and thus left without any further trouble, the newly-cleared ground yields a copious increase.

A stranger is here struck with sentiments of regret on viewing the numbers of fine oak-trees which are daily consumed by fire, in preparing the lands for cultivation.

The houses, with few exceptions, are here constructed of wood, but with a degree of neatness and taste, for which we in vain might look among the more ancient settlements of the lower province.

The improvements of every description, in which for a few years past the province has been rapidly advancing, have, in some situations, already divested it of the appearance of a new-settled colony, and made it assume the garb of wealth, and of long-established culture. The roads in the settled parts of the country are, in the summer season, remarkably fine, and two stage-coaches run daily between Niagara and Chippawa, or Fort Welland, a distance of eighteen miles.

The scenery from Niagara to Queenstown is highly pleasing, the road leading along the summit of the banks of one of the most magnificent rivers in the universe; and on ascending the mountain, which is rather a sudden elevation from one immense plain to another, where the river becomes lost to the view, the traveller proceeds through a forest of oak-trees, until he becomes sur-

prised, and his attention is arrested by the falls presented to the eye through openings now cut in the woods, on the steep banks by which they are confined.

Queenstown is a neat and flourishing place, distinguished by the beauty and grandeur of its situation. Here all the merchandise and stores for the upper part of the province are landed from the vessels in which they have been conveyed from Kingston, and transported in waggons to Chippawa, a distance of ten miles, the falls, and the rapid and broken course of the river, rendering the navigation impracticable for that space. Between Niagara and Queenstown the river affords, in every part, a noble harbour for vessels, the water being deep, the stream not too powerful, the anchorage good, and the banks on either side of considerable altitude.

The mountain already noticed is formed by the land assuming a sudden acclivity of upwards of three hundred feet from one horizontal plain to another, and extends from east to west for a considerable way, the river holding its course through its center, and cutting it asunder. The perpendicular banks on either side are near four hundred feet in height, from the level of the water below to their summit. Their strata are similar, not only in altitudes but in substance. A little way below the bank on which the town is placed, there is a spot rising about twenty feet from the side of the river, upon whose surface a quan-

tity of stones is placed, which appear to have been deposited there for a series of years, and which have been evidently formed in currents of water.

Since the settlement of the country, the river has not been perceived to rise to that height. These circumstances seem to afford probable ground for conjecture, that the stream which now flows through the deep chasm of the mountain, did at some former period, throw itself from near the summit, and after sweeping away the rocks and soil, form its present profound and rugged channel, extending upwards of nine miles from the precipice, whence the wide and stupendous flood continues now to fall.

In tracing the course of the river higher up from Queenstown, many singular and romantic scenes are exhibited: the whirlpool, which is about four miles from that place, is a basin formed by the current in the midst of lofty precipices clothed with woods. Previous to its entering this bay, the stream drives with awful roar, its broken interrupted waters over a sudden slope upwards of fifty feet in height, and thus proceeds foaming past the bed it afterwards takes, which being around the angle of a precipitous promontory, its weight and velocity oblige it to pass on, and to make the circuit of the basin before it can flow through that channel. It has apparently made an effort to break through the bank to the westward, but the rock was probably too solid. The strata to the north-

G. Heriot Esqr. pinx^t. *F. C. Lewis sculp.*

The Whirlpool of the St. Lawrence.

ward were found more penetrable, and through these it has forced a passage. A tide rising to the height of two and half feet, and again falling every minute, is observable all around the basin; this phenomenon may be produced by the impulse communicated to it from the torrent, which causes it alternately to swell, and to recoil from the beach.

This gulph usually contains a quantity of floating timber, which continues to revolve in the eddy about once in half an hour, and will sometimes remain in this state for months, until it be drawn off by the current. At one particular part, all floating substances are made to rise on one end, after which they are swallowed down by the vortex, and for a time disappear.

The falls of Niagara surpass in sublimity every description which the powers of language can afford of that celebrated scene, the most wonderful and awful which the habitable world presents. Nor can any drawing convey an adequate idea of the magnitude and depth of the precipitating waters. By the interposition of two islands, the river is separated into three falls, that of the Great Horseshoe on the west or British side, so denominated from its form, and those of Fort Slausser and Montmorenci, on the eastern or American side. The larger island is about four hundred yards in width, and the small island about ten yards. The three falls, with the islands, describe

a crescent, and the river beneath becomes considerably contracted. The breadth of the whole, at the pitch of the waters, including the curvatures which the violence of the current has produced in the Horse-shoe, and in the American falls, may be estimated at a mile and a quarter, and the altitude of the Table Rock, from whence the precipitation commences, is one hundred and fifty feet.

Along the boundaries of the river, and behind the falls, the elevated and rocky banks are every where excavated by sulphureous springs, the vitriolic acid uniting with the limestone rock, and forming plaster of Paris, which is here and there scattered amid the masses of stone which compose the beach beneath.

These excavations extend in many places to a distance of fifty feet underneath the summit of the bank.

Casting the eye from the Table Rock into the basin beneath, the effect is awfully grand, magnificent, and sublime. No object intervening between the spectator and that profound abyss, he appears suspended in the atmosphere.

* The lofty banks and immense woods which environ this stupendous scene, the irresistible force, the rapidity of motion displayed by the rolling clouds of foam, the uncommon brilliancy and variety of colours and of shades,

* A part of this description was published in 1801 in the Sun, and afterwards copied from that paper into the Moniteur at Paris.

G. Heriot Esqr pinx^t

F. C. Lewis sculp.

View of the Falls of Niagara, from the bank near Breche's Mills

the ceaseless intumescence, and swift agitation of the dashing waves below, the solemn and tremendous noise, with the volumes of vapour darting upwards into the air, which the simultaneous report and smoke of a thousand cannon could scarcely equal, irresistibly tend to impress the imagination with such a train of sublime sensations, as few other combinations of natural objects are capable of producing, and which terror lest the treacherous rock crumble beneath the feet by no means contributes to diminish.

The height of the descent of the rapids above the great fall is fifty-seven feet eleven inches. The distance of the commencement of the rapids above the pitch, measured by the side of the island is one hundred and forty-eight feet, and the total altitude from the bottom of the falls to the top of the rapids, is two hundred and seven feet. The projection of the extreme part of the Table Rock is fifty feet four inches.

The large island extends up the river about three quarters of a mile, and the rapids between that and the western banks are much diversified; in one situation near the island, there is a fall of about sixteen feet in height, the vapour from which is distinctly visible. Several small islands are formed towards the west side of the river.

From a settlement called Birch's Mills, on level ground below the bank, the rapids are displayed to great advantage; they dash from one rocky declivity to another, and

hasten with foaming fury to the precipice. The bank along whose summit the carriage-road extends, affords many rich, although partial views of the falls and rapids. They are from hence partly excluded from the eye by trees of different kinds, such as the oak, the ash, the beech, fir, sassafras, cedar, walnut, and tulip-trees.

About two miles further down the side of the river, at a situation called Bender's, an extensive and general prospect of the falls, with the rapids and islands, is at once developed to the eye of the spectator. On descending the bank which in several places is precipitous and difficult, and on emerging from the woods at its base, a wonderful display of grand and stupendous objects is at once expanded to the view. From amid immense fragments of rock, and lacerated trees which have descended in the current of the waters, the eye is directed upwards toward the falls, that of Fort Slausser being on the left, and the Great Horse-shoe fall immediately in front. On the right is a lofty bank profusely covered with diversity of foliage, beyond which the naked, excavated rock discloses itself. As the river here contracts to the breadth of about half a mile, the fall on the American side becomes nearest to the eye, and its waters tumble over a rock which appears to be perpendicular, and nearly in a straight line across to the island, the curvatures being, from the point now described, not perceptible. The rock is, however,

excavated, and at the pitch has been worn from continual abrasion by the fall, into a serrated shape, whence the masses of foam pour down in ridges which retain their figure from the summit to the bottom. Numbers of stones which have been torn away from the precipice, are accumulated throughout the whole extent below, and receive the weighty and effulgent clouds of broken waters, which again dash from thence into the basin.

The Horse-shoe fall is distinguished not only by its vastness, but by the variety of its colours. The waters at the edge of the Table Rock are of a brownish cast, further on of a brilliant white, and in the center, where the fluid body is greatest, a transparent green appears. Around the projection, which is in the form of a horse-shoe, the water is of a snowy whiteness. A cloud of thick vapour constantly arises from the center, part of which becomes dissolved in the higher regions of the atmosphere, and a part spreads itself in dews over the neighbouring fields. This cloud of vapour has frequently, in clear weather, been observed from Lake Ontario, at the distance of ninety miles from the falls.

The bed of the river is so deep, that it undergoes not such a degree of agitation as the reception of those bodies of water perpetually pouring down into it might be supposed to produce. Except at the places immediately underneath each of the falls, there are no broken billows;

the stream is comparatively tranquil, but the water continues for a long way down its course, to revolve in numerous whirlpools. Its colour is a deep blue; quantities of foam float upon the surface and almost cover a large bay formed between projecting points, containing several insulated rocks.

Proceeding along the beach to the basis of the Table Rock, the distance is about two miles, and the way thither is over masses of stone which have been torn from the bank above, and over trees which have been carried down the falls, and have been deposited in the spring by bodies of ice, in situations above twenty feet in height from the level of the river.

The projection of the Table Rock, it has been remarked, is fifty feet, and between it and the falls a lofty and irregular arch is formed, which extends under the pitch, almost without interruption, to the island. To enter this cavern, bounded by the waters and rock, and to turn the view towards the falls, the noise, the motion, and the vast impulse and weight exhibited, seem to cause every thing around them to tremble, and at once occupy and astonish the mind. Sudden and frequent squalls, accompanied by torrents of rain, issue from this gloomy cavern; the air drawn down by the waters is in part reverberated by the rock, and thus discharges itself.

At this situation is illustrated the effect of an immense

mass of waters, thrown from a prodigious height, after being forcibly propelled. The projectile, counteracted by the gravitative power, obliges the falling body to describe at first an ellipse, and then to assume the perpendicular direction in which it is received into the basin.

The salient groups in which, with gradations almost regular, the tumbling waters are precipitated, excite the awe and admiration of the spectator; the eye follows with delight the masses of lustrous foam, varied by prismatic hues, and forming a wide and resplendent curtain.

About half a mile from hence, in descending the course of the river, and behind some trees which grow upon the lower bank, is placed the Indian ladder, composed of a tall cedar tree, whose boughs have been lopped off to within three inches of the trunk, and whose upper end is attached by a cord of bark to the root of a living tree; the lower end is planted amid stones. It is upwards of forty feet in length, and trembles and bends under the weight of a person upon it. As this is the nearest way to the river-side, many people descend by the ladder, led either by curiosity, or for the purpose of spearing fish, which in the summer are found in great abundance in this vicinity.

The spear in use is a fork with two or three prongs, with moving barbs, and fixed to a long handle. The fisherman takes possession of a prominent rock, from whence

he watches for his prey, and when it approaches within his reach, he pierces it with his instrument, with an almost inevitable certainty.

The village of Chippawa or Fort Welland, is situated on each side of a river of the same name, which here joins the Saint Lawrence. A wooden bridge is thrown across this stream, over which is the road leading to Fort Erie. The former fort consists only of a large block-house near the bridge, on the northern bank, surrounded by lofty pickets; it is usually the station of a subaltern officer and twenty-five men, who are principally engaged in conducting to Fort Erie the transport of stores for the service of the troops in the upper part of the province, and for the engineer and Indian departments. After being conveyed by land from Queenstown, the provisions and other articles are here embarked in bateaux.

There are in the village some mercantile store-houses, and two or three taverns. The waters of the Chippawa are always of a deep brown colour, and are very unwholesome if used for culinary purposes. They enter the Saint Lawrence about two miles above the falls, and although they be frequently broken, and rush into many rapids in their course thither, they seem obstinately to resist being mixed with the purer waters of that flood, and retain their colour in passing over the precipice. The foam produced in their precipitation is of a brownish hue, and forms the edge of

the sheet which tumbles over the Table Rock. Their weight, and the depth of the descent, mingle them effectually with the waters in the basin beneath. The colour of the Chippawa is derived from that river passing over a level country, in many places swampy, and from quantities of decayed trees which tinge it with their bark. It is also impregnated with bituminous matter, which prevents it, until it has suffered the most violent agitation and separation of particles, from incorporating with the more transparent and uncorrupted stream of the Saint Lawrence.

Opposite to the village of Chippawa the current becomes so powerful, that no boat can be ventured into it, without imminent danger of being swept away, and lost in the rapids. Between the village and the falls there are three mills; the lower for the manufacture of flour; the two upper mills, which are near to each other, and adjoining to the road, are for the purposes of sawing timber into boards, and for manufacturing iron. The latter scheme has hitherto failed of success: the logs for the saw-mill are conveyed down the current to this situation in a very singular manner. They are cut upon the borders of the Chiapawa, and floated down to its mouth, where a reservoir, formed by a chain of hog-pens, is made to contain them. In proceeding downwards, in order to avoid being drawn into the vast vortex of the falls, small poles have

been fixed together, from the reservoir to the mill, floating at the distance of eighteen or twenty feet from the shore They are retained in their places by poles projecting from the land ; and thus the chain of poles, rising and falling with the waters, and always floating on the surface, forms a species of canal, into which the logs are separately launched, and in this manner carried from the reservoir to the mill, a distance of more than a mile.

In the vicinity of this mill there is a spring of water, whose vapour is highly inflammable, and is emitted for a time with a considerable degree of force. If collected within a narrow compass, it is capable of supporting combustion for near twenty minutes, and of communicating to water placed over it, in a small, confined vessel, the degree of boiling temperature.

CHAPTER VIII.

SUBLIME SUBJECT OF THE FALLS FURTHER PURSUED—LAKE ERIE—AMHERSTBURG—THE DETROIT—SANDWICH—OLD TOWN OF DETROIT—BEAUTY AND FERTILITY OF THE COUNTRY—RIVER AND LAKE OF SAINT CLAIRE—LA TRANCHE, OR THAMES—SETTLEMENTS ON ITS BORDERS—LAKE HURON—BAY OF THUNDER—MICHILIMAKINAC—LAKE MICHIGAN—GREEN BAY—INHABITANTS—SAINT JOSEPH—CASCADES OF SAINT MARY—ADDRESS OF THE INDIANS—ANCIENT HURONS, AND OTHER NATIVE TRIBES—LAKE SUPERIOR—REMARKABLE TRANSPARENCY OF ITS WATERS—GRAND PORTAGE—NEW ESTABLISHMENT ON THE KAMANISTIGUA.

TO those who are admirers of the picturesque beauties of Nature, it will be almost unnecessary to apologize for the prolixity of description with which the last communication was filled. The subject of the latter part of it, upon which we have already so long dwelt, is at once noble and *unique*. Let us therefore attempt to pursue it still further, although without the hope of being able to do it justice.

The Saint Lawrence at the confluence of the Chippawa, is upwards of a league in width, and is passed to the opposite shore in boats or bateaux, about three-quarters of a mile higher up than the village, and by the lower

end of Navy island. The transport of goods by land to Fort Slausser, two miles above the east side of the falls, was formerly conducted from a place opposite to Queenstown. In passing through the cultivated grounds on this border of the river, immense mounds of earth, thrown up by multitudinous colonies of large black ants, are every where observable. The rapids on this branch of the river, although not so extensive, are nevertheless equally beautiful and romantic with those of the western branch. A spot at the distance of fifty yards from the pitch affords a most advantageous and pleasing display of a scene, which in every point of view is accompanied with sublimity. Trees and rocks form the nearest objects, and between these and the islands a lively picture is exhibited of broken rapids dashing over the slippery rocks, which are hidden beneath the foaming torrents. Amid the sinuosities of the pitch, a part of the American fall is developed to the view of the spectator, and the Montmorenci fall is exposed about half way down its depth; the other parts of the eastern fall are concealed, whilst a portion of the waters beneath becomes disclosed. The inequalities of the precipice, which have been formed by the current, are here fully discoverable. Several small isles covered with woods appear near the central island, and add to the variety of the scene, which foliage of diversified verdure, overtopped here and there by the towering cedar, contributes to enliven

G. Hervot Esqr. delint.

F. C. Lewis sculp.

View of the Falls of Niagara from beneath the bank on the Fort Slaussers side

and to adorn. The Horse-shoe fall beyond the whole, delights the mind with the rapidity of its movements, and the animated effulgence of its hues. From the station which we have now endeavoured to describe, is afforded the most perfect idea of the crescent formed by the three falls, the islands, and the Table Rock.

To descend the perpendicular cliff on the eastern bank is attended with difficulty, and with some degree of peril. Few of the roots and vines which formerly hung downwards from the trees, any longer remain. In descending the craggy steep, the adventurer must cling to the rock with his hands and feet, moving onward with great caution. On his arrival at the base of the cliff, he is struck by a developement of scenery, yet more awfully stupendous than that which had before been presented to his contemplation. Here nature, agitated by the struggles of contending elements, assumes a majestic and tremendous wildness of form. Here terror seems to hold his habitation. Here brilliancy, profundity, motion, sound, and tumultuous fury, mingle throughout the scene. The waters appear to pour from the sky with such impetuosity, that a portion is thrown back in clouds of vapour. The mind, expanded by the immensity and splendour of the surrounding objects, is disposed to give issue to the sensations of awe and wonder by which she is impressed, in

ejaculations similar to that of the Psalmist of Israel, "Great and marvellous are thy works!!!"

The huge fragments of rock which have been thrown from the summit of the precipice, by the irresistible strength of the torrent, and which have fallen upon each other in towering heaps beneath, suggest to the imagination an idea of what may take place previous to the general consummation of this terrestrial scene, when ancient monuments of marble, under which princes of the earth have for ages slept, shall be burst asunder, and torn up from their foundations.

Can so vast, so rapid, and so continual a waste of water never drain its sources? These are inexhaustible; and the body which throws itself down these cliffs, forms the sole discharge of four immense inland seas.

The effect produced by the cold of winter on these sheets of water thus rapidly agitated, is at once singular and splendid. Icicles of great thickness and length are formed along the banks, from the springs which flow over them. The sources, impregnated with sulphur, which drain from the hollow of the rocks, are congealed into transparent blue columns. Cones are formed by the spray, particularly on the American side, which have in several places large fissures disclosing the interior, composed of clusters of icicles, similar to the pipes of an organ. Some parts of the falls are consolidated into fluted columns, and

the river above is seen partially frozen. The boughs of the trees in the surrounding woods are hung with purest icicles formed from the spray, and reflecting in every direction the rays of the sun, produce a variety of prismatic hues, and a lustre almost too refulgent to be long sustained by the powers of vision.

This part of the Saint Lawrence, which is called the Niagara river, issues from the eastern extremity of Lake Erie, and discharges itself into Lake Ontario, at the end of thirty-six miles, after undergoing the most violent agitations through an interrupted and sinuous channel. At its commencement from the former, its breadth is not more than half a mile, but it becomes afterwards enlarged, and separated into two branches by an island of fifteen miles in length. The current is powerful, and the navigation for vessels is rendered intricate, by innumerable hidden rocks. In the vicinity of Navy island there are two smaller isles.

The western bank between Chippawa and Lake Erie is almost entirely settled, and the road is level and in most places good. The Americans have on their side the river, a road extending from Fort Slausser to Buffalo creek, a settlement which contains several Indian and some white families. At a spot called the Black Rock, at the lower end of the rapids, a fort has been traced, and partly constructed, within the limits of the United States.

Lake Erie is near three hundred miles in length, and seven hundred and ten miles in circumference. It derives its name from the Erie's or Cats, a native tribe which once dwelt on its borders. The landscape at the entrance exhibits a pleasing variety, consisting of water, points of land, level countries, and distant mountains. The coasts are cloathed with oak, ash, chesnut, apple, and cherry-trees. The south-east shore abounds in game and wild animals. The islands which it contains are Bass islands, Isle Bois blanc, Isle Celeron, Cunningham's island, East Sister, Grose isle, Middle island, Middle Sister, Pointe Pelée isle, Saint George's island, Ship island, Sandusky island, Turtle island, and West Sister.

The old fort on the west side of the entrance into the lake, consists of no more than a few houses, a block-house of logs, with some habitations for commercial people, and one or two store-houses. A new stone fort, in the form of a quadrangle, is now constructing on rising ground behind the block-house. A company of soldiers is usually stationed here, and the men are chiefly employed in assisting to conduct the transport of stores. Two vessels in the service of the British government are used in navigating this lake.

The bottom of the lake consists of lime-stone rock of a blueish colour, with which are mingled many petrified substances, animal as well as vegetable. The lake is

much exposed at its northern extremity, to gales of wind which occasion its waters to rise to a very considerable height. Vessels are at these periods in some danger of being driven ashore, their cables being often cut asunder by the sharp and flinty edges of the rocks which compose the anchorage.

At ten miles and a half from the fort, in pursuing the northern coast, is found a promontory which advances into the water about three hundred and fifty yards, and is named *Pointe à Beneaut*, or Abino, affording for vessels a safe anchorage in its neighbourhood. From hence to the grand river the distance is twenty-four miles; a hill in the form of a sugar-loaf intervenes, and presents a good land-mark. The townships in this vicinity are rapidly advancing in population and improvement, and several water-mills have been constructed. The Chenette, or river Waveny, is eighteen miles more to the westward, and *Pointe à la Biche*, now Turkey Point, lies about fourteen miles further along the coast. In the townships of Woodhouse and Charlotteville, which are situated on this part of the lake, there is a considerable extent of country thinly timbered, whose cultivation is facilitated from the want of underwood. It exhibits more the appearance of a royal forest in Europe than that of an American wilderness.

Long Point is a peninsula which extends itself into the

water for a distance of twenty miles, separated almost from the main land, the isthmus being little more than eighteen feet in breadth. In advancing towards the south-east, it forms an ellipse, and travellers in canoes, in order to avoid a length of coast so circuitous, carry their vessels across the neck, to which, if the shoals be added, the breadth is about forty paces. The waters at certain seasons flow over this neck, and insulate Long Point. This promontory is now called the North Foreland, and forms a considerable bay. On the grand river already mentioned, a village of the Iroquois, or Mohawks, is situated; and between that and Charlotteville, on the lake, a good road is cut through the country. From Long Point to *Pointe aux Peres*, now called Languard, the distance is upwards of seventy miles. *La Barbue*, *la Tonti*, and several smaller streams, flow between these promontories. The banks of the lake, for the greatest part of this way, are elevated. Point Pelée, which is about forty miles from Languard, forms a considerable projection into the lake, and is the most southerly spot of all the British territories on the continent of North America: on its west side is Pigeon Bay, beyond which are several settlements established by American loyalists. From the latter point to Malden, at the entrance of the Detroit, the distance is about thirty miles. The river *aux Cedres* and another stream run between these places.

The fort of Amherstburg is placed in the township of

Malden, opposite the isle *au Bois blanc*; for the latter, a small detachment of soldiers is sent from the former, to command the east channel of Detroit. The anchorage near the main shore is safe, and wharfs have been constructed, and storehouses and dwellings erected. The fort has never been completed, as it was laid out on a scale much too considerable for so remote a situation.

Miamis river empties itself into a bay of the same name, at the south-west end of Lake Erie. It was upon the banks of this river, at a short distance from its mouth, that a fort was constructed in 1794, and a garrison posted in it, to stop the progress of General Wayne, who with an army of Americans, was marching against the fort of Detroit. Some of the sources of this river are not far from the Wabache, which falls into the Ohio.

The navigation of Lake Erie, whose greatest depth does not exceed fifty fathoms, is frequently more tedious than that of the other lakes, on account of the changes of wind that are required to carry a vessel through it, and to enter the strait, which runs nearly from north to south. In some of the beautiful isles at its mouth there are remarkable caverns, abounding in stalactites.

The strait, for a considerable way upwards, is divided into two channels by *Gros isle*. A low, narrow, and marshy island, near four miles long, next presents itself; and on the eastern coast of the main land the town of Sandwich is

situated, which was laid out for the reception of British settlers and traders, who, agreeably to the treaty of commerce and navigation, concluded between the government of Great Britain and that of the United States, made their election of continuing subjects of the former. This place has increased in population and improvements with wonderful rapidity. The gaol and district court-house are here erected; and as lots were distributed gratis to the first persons who constructed dwelling-houses, the town soon became flourishing. On the banks of the strait the settlements are frequent, particularly on the western or American border; adjoining to almost every house there is an orchard. The improvements are extensive, and executed with taste. Peaches, grapes, apples, and every other species of fruit, are here produced in the greatest perfection and abundance. The lands on either side yield in fertility to none on the continent of America, and this territory may not improperly be stiled the garden of the North. In passing through the strait, when the fruit-trees are in blossom, the scene is gratifying and rich. In the vicinity of Sandwich a mission of the Hurons is established.

The old town and fort of Detroit, which in 1796 was transferred to the government of the United States, is situated on the western border of the river, about nine miles below Lake Saint Claire. It contained upwards of two hundred houses, the streets were regular, and it had a range of bar-

racks of a neat appearance, with a spacious parade on the southern extremity. The fortifications consisted of a stockade of cedar-posts, and it was defended by bastions made of earth and pickets, on which were mounted pieces of cannon sufficient to resist the hostile efforts of the Indians, or of an enemy unprovided with artillery. The garrison in times of peace consisted of about three hundred men, commanded by a field-officer, who discharged also the functions of civil magistrate. The whole of this town was lately burnt to ashes, not a building remaining except one or two block-houses.

In the month of July 1762, Pontiac, a chief of the Miamis Indians, who preserved a deep-rooted hatred to the English, endeavoured to surprise the garrison of Detroit, with an intention of massacring the whole of the inhabitants; but an accidental discovery having been made of his plot, he and his people were spared by the commandant, who had them in his power, and were permitted to depart in safety. Far from entertaining any sentiment of gratitude for the generous conduct which had been shewn him, Pontiac continued for a considerable time to blockade the place, and several lives were lost on both sides by frequent skirmishes.

The strait above Hog island becomes enlarged, and forms Lake Saint Claire, whose diameter is twenty-six miles, but whose depth is inconsiderable. Its islands are *Chenal*

écarté, Harsen's island, Hay island, Peach island, and Thompson's island. On the western side of this lake were two numerous villages of natives, not far from each other. The first of these, called Huron Tsonnontatez, was the same which, having long wandered towards the North, formerly fixed itself at the cascades of Saint Mary and at Michilimakinac. The second was composed of Pouteouatamis. On the right, somewhat higher up, there was a third village, consisting of the Outaouais, inseparable companions of the Hurons, ever since both these tribes were compelled by the Iroquois to abandon their native territories.

The lake gives a passage to the waters of the three immense lakes beyond it, receiving them through a long channel, extending from north to south, called the river Saint Claire. The river la Tranche, or Thames, disembogues its waters on the south-east side; its banks are varied by natural meadows and tracts of wood-lands. The projected town of Chatham is designed to be placed on a fork of this stream, about fifteen miles from its lower extremity, and is intended as a depot for building vessels. Its greatest disadvantage is a bar across its *embouchure*, in lake St Claire; but this is of sufficient depth for vessels of a smaller description, and for those of a larger size when lightened.

A village of Moravians, under the guidance of four

missionaries from the United Brethren, is placed twenty miles above the intended site of Chatham. They established themselves in that situation with a design of converting the Indians, and their conduct is peaceable and inoffensive; their chief occupation is in cultivating their corn-fields, and making maple sugar. A chapel is erected in the village. Not far from hence there is a spring of petroleum.

In proceeding upwards, the sinuosities of the river are frequent, and the summits of the banks are rather elevated, but not broken; on either side are villages of the Delawars and Chippawas. Somewhat higher up, at the confluence of two forks of this river, is the site of which General Simcoe made choice for a town to be named London. Its position, with relation to the lakes Huron, Erie, and Ontario, is centrical, and around it is a fertile and inviting tract of territory. It communicates with lake Huron by a northern, or main branch of the same river, and a small portage or carrying-place.

One of the branches of the Thames is not far distant from the Ouse, or Grand River. But the prospect of being enabled to embrace the advantages of this inland navigation can only be contemplated at a distance. A period of many years must necessarily elapse before the population and improvements shall have attained that progressive state of

prosperity, which will enable the inhabitants to bestow attention and expence on the modes of facilitating the more interior communication.

Along the banks of the Thames there are now several rich settlements, and new establishments are every week added to this, as well as to other parts of the neighbouring country, by the emigration of wealthy farmers from the United States, who bring with them their stock, utensils, and the money received for the sale of the lands they possessed.

Level grounds intervene to break the uniformity which would predominate on this river, were its borders all of equal height. These situations were formerly cultivated by native tribes. On the east side of the fork, between the two main branches, on a regular eminence, about forty feet above the water, there is a natural plain, denuded of woods, except where small groves are interspersed, affording in its present state the appearance of a beautiful park, on whose formation and culture, taste and expence had been bestowed.

Lake Huron is, in point of magnitude, the second sea of fresh waters on the continent of America, and it may be added, on this terraqueous globe. Its form is triangular, its length is two hundred and fifty miles, and its circumference, including the coasts of the bays, is one

thousand one hundred miles. The islands which it contains are, La Cloche, Duck islands, Flat islands, Isle la Crosse, Isle Traverse, Manitoualin islands, Whitewood island, Michilimakinac, Nibish island, Prince William's islands, island of Saint Joseph, Sugar island, Thunder-bay islands on the south, and a multitude of isles on the north coast.

The channel between lakes Saint Claire and Huron is twenty-five miles in length, and presents on either side a scene no less fertile than pleasing. It runs almost in a straight direction, lined by lofty forest-trees, interspersed with elegant and extensive meadows, and studded with islands, some of which are of considerable size.

On the south side of lake Huron is the bay of Saguina, whose mouth is eighteen miles in width, whose length is forty-five miles, and into whose bottom two rivers empty themselves. On that which comes from the south, the Outaouais have a village, and the soil is reputed to be fertile. Six miles above the bay, two considerable rivers present themselves.

The bay of Thunder lies to the eastward of Cabot's head, and is nine miles in width, but of small depth. It is so denominated from the frequent thunder-storms which there take place, generated by vapours issuing from the land in its vicinity. Travellers, in passing this part of the lake, almost never escape the encounter of these awful pheno-

mena. The storm at first appears like a small round cloud, which enlarges as it rapidly approaches, and spreads its gloom over a considerable extent. The vivid lightnings flash their forked fires in every direction, and peals of thunder roar and burst over the head, with a noise more loud, and more tremendous in this, than in any other part of North America.

Michilimakinac is a small island, situated at the north-west angle of lake Huron, towards the entrance of the channel which forms the communication with lake Michigan, in latitude forty-five degrees, forty-eight minutes, thirty-four seconds, and upwards of a thousand miles from Quebec. It is of a round form, irregularly elevated, and of a barren soil; the fort occupies the highest ground, and consists of four wooden block-houses forming the angles, the spaces between them being filled up with cedar pickets. On the shore below the fort, there are several store-houses and dwellings. The neighbouring part of the continent, which separates lake Superior from lake Huron, derives its name from this island. In 1671, Father Marquette came thither with a party of Hurons, whom he prevailed on to form a settlement; a fort was constructed, and it afterwards became an important post. It was the place of general assemblage for all the French who went to traffic with the distant nations. It was the asylum of all savages who came to exchange their furs for merchan-

dise. When individuals belonging to tribes at war with each other, came thither and met on commercial adventure, their animosities were suspended.

The natives who reside there have no occasion to betake themselves to the fatigues of the chace, in order to procure a subsistence. When they are inclined to industry, they construct canoes of the bark of the birch-tree, which they sell for from two hundred to three hundred livres each. They catch herrings, white fish, and trout, of from four to five feet in length, some of which weigh seventy pounds. This fish, which is bred in lake Michigan, and is known by the name of Michilimakinac trout, affords a most delicious food. It is extremely rich and delicate, and its fat, resembling the nature of spermaceti, is never cloying to the appetite.

The young men, notwithstanding the abundance of food derived from the quantities of fish, employ a great part of the summer in the chace, for which they travel to the distance of forty or fifty leagues, and return loaded with game. In autumn they again depart for the winter chace, which is the most valuable and productive for the furs, and return in the spring with skins of beavers, martins, foxes, and other animals, with bear's grease, and with provision of the flesh of that animal and of stags, buffaloes, and elks, cured by smoke.

Their tradition concerning the name of this little barren

island is curious. They say that Michapous, the chief of spirits, sojourned long in that vicinity. They believed that a mountain on the border of the lake was the place of his abode, and they called it by his name. It was here, say they, that he first instructed man to fabricate nets for taking fish, and where he has collected the greatest quantity of these finny inhabitants of the waters. On the island he left spirits, named Imakinakos, and from these aerial possessors it has received the appellation of Michilimakinac. This place came into possession of the American government in 1796, the period of delivering over all the other forts within its boundaries.

The strait between lakes Huron and Michigan, or the lake of the Illinois, is fifteen miles in length, and is subject to a flux and reflux, which are by no means regular. The currents flow with ruch rapidity, that when the wind blows, all the nets which are set are drifted away and lost; and sometimes during strong winds the ice is driven against the direction of the currents with much violence.

When the savages in those quarters make a feast of fish, they invoke the spirits of the island, thank them for their bounty, and entreat them to continue their protection to their families. They demand of them to preserve their nets and canoes from the swelling and destructive billows, when the lakes are agitated by storms. All who assist in the ceremony lengthen their voices together, which

is an act of gratitude. In the observance of this duty of their religion, they were formerly very punctual and scrupulous, but the French rallied them so much upon the subject, that they became ashamed to practise it openly. They are still, however, remarked to mutter something, which has a reference to the ceremony which their forefathers were accustomed to perform in honour of their insular deities.

Lake Michigan is two hundred and sixty miles in length, and nine hundred and forty-five in circumference. Its discharge is into Lake Huron, through the strait already mentioned, and it consequently forms a part of the Saint Lawrence. Its breadth is about seventy miles; on the right of its entrance are the Beaver islands, and on the left those of the Pouteouatamis, in travelling from south to north. The eastern coast is full of rivers and rivulets near to one another, which have their source in the peninsula that separates Lake Huron from this lake. The principal of these are Marquette's river, the Saint Nicholas, the great river whose source is near the bay of Saguina on Lake Huron, the Raisin, the Barbue, the Maramey, the Black river, on whose borders there is much ginseng, and the river Saint Joseph, which is the most considerable of the whole, and which, through its various sinuosities, may be ascended near a hundred and fifty miles. At sixty miles from its mouth, the French had a fort and mission,

near a village of the Pouteouatamis. At nine or ten miles from the Saint Joseph are found the sources of the Theakiki, navigable for canoes, and which falls into the river of the Illinois. The western coast of the lake has been but little frequented; towards the north is found the entrance of the bay des Puans, a name given by the French to a savage nation residing there, but it is more generally distinguished by the appellation of the Green bay. Upon its borders stood a French fort, and a mission called Saint François Xavier was established in this vicinity. The bottom of the bay is terminated by a fall of water, beyond which there is a small lake, called Winnebago, receiving the Fox river flowing from the west. After making a portage of two miles, the traveller may proceed along its course to the Ouiscousin, which unites with the Mississippi.

The waters in Green bay have a flux and reflux, and from the quantity of swampy grounds, and of mud sometimes left exposed to the sun, and causing an unpleasant vapour, it originally received the name of *Puante*. This agitation of the waters proceeds, doubtless, from the pressure of winds on the center of the lake. The bay is one hundred and twenty miles in depth, and its width is from twenty-four to thirty miles at its entrance, which, by the islands already noticed, is separated into several channels. On the borders of the Malhominis river, whose waters

flow into this bay, there is a village composed of natives collected from several tribes, who employ themselves in fishing and in cultivating the ground. They are gratified by entertaining passengers, a quality which among savages is in the highest estimation; for it is the custom of the chiefs to bestow all they possess, if they wish to acquire any pre-eminent degree of consideration. The predominating propensity of these savages is hospitality to strangers, who find here, in every season, all kinds of refreshment which these territories produce, and the principal return which is expected, is a commendation of their generosity.

The Sakis, the Pouteouatamis, and Malhominis, here reside; there are also about four cabins or families of sedentary Nadouaicks, whose nation was exterminated by the Iroquois. The Ouenibegons, or Puans, were formerly the possessors of this bay, and of a great extent of the neighbouring country. The tribe was numerous, formidable, and fierce. They violated every principle of nature. No stranger was suffered to enter their territory with impunity. The Malhominis, who dared not to complain of their tyranny, were the only people with whom they had any intercourse. They believed themselves invincible; they declared war on every tribe they could discover, although their arms consisted only of hatchets, and of knives formed of stone. They refused to have any commerce with the

French. The Outaouais sent to them embassadors, whom they had the ferocity to devour. This instance of atrocity roused with indignation all the neighbouring tribes, who joined with the Outaouais, and receiving arms from the French, made frequent irruptions on the Puans. The numbers of the latter became thus rapidly diminished. Civil wars, at length, arose amongst them ; they reproached each other as the cause of their misfortunes, by having perfidiously sacrificed the Outaouaisian deputies, who were bringing them knives and other articles for their use, of whose value they were ignorant. When they found themselves so vigorously attacked, they were constrained to unite into one village, where they still amounted to five thousand men. They formed against the Outagamis a party of five hundred warriors, but these perished by a tempest which arose during their passage on the waters. Their enemies compassionated their loss, by saying that the gods ought to be satisfied with such reiterated punishments, and ceased to make war against the remainder of their tribe. The scourges with which they had been afflicted awoke not, however, in their minds, a sense of the turpitude of their conduct, and they pursued with renovated vigour the practice of their former enormities.

The north coast of Lake Huron is intersected by several rivers which flow thither. A chain of islands, called the Manitoualins, extends about a hundred and fifty miles

from east to west, opposite to the lower or eastern extremity of which French river disembogues itself. The eastern coast of the lake is studded with isles, and cut by rivulets and rivers, which descend from several small lakes, the most considerable of which is Toronto, already described under the name of Simcoe; this, it has been remarked, has a communication with Lake Ontario, after a very short carrying-place.

Lake Michigan is separated from Lake Superior by a tongue of land, at least ninety miles in length and twenty-four in breadth. The sterility of the soil renders it incapable of affording sustenance to any inhabitants. It may be denominated an island, as it is intersected by a river, communicating with both of these lakes. Saint Joseph is an island of about seventy-five miles in circumference, situated near the Detour, or passage for vessels, at the northern extremity of Lake Huron. It was made choice of in 1795 as a military post, when Michilimakinac should be no longer in possession of the British government. The fort, which is one of the handsomest of the kind in North America, is situated at the southern extremity, upon a peninsula about fifty feet above the level of the water, and connected with the island by a low isthmus of sand, about three hundred yards in breadth.

A company of infantry, and some artillery soldiers, are

there stationed. Although more than a degree of latitude to the southward of Quebec, the winters are of equal duration and severity as at that place. The soil consists of a black mould of about fifteen inches in depth, upon a stratum of sand, and is not of a very fertile nature. The route for canoes is between the Manitoualins islands, also the northern coast of Saint Joseph, and north main-land, in their voyage upwards to Lake Superior. The navigable channel for vessels is through the centre of the lake, and between the western extremity of the Manitoualins islands and the south-west main-land, through a narrow passage called the *Detour*, and between the small isle la Crosse and the same coast; the intricate navigation between the islands renders a guide necessary.

Nibish island intervenes between Saint Joseph and the western shore. Sugar island is long and narrow, bending towards the north in form of a crescent, and causing an enlargement of the waters between it and the continental coast; this is called Lake George.

The falls, or rather cascades, of Saint Mary, are nothing else than a violent current of the waters of Lake Superior, which being interrupted in their descent by a number of large rocks, that seem to dispute the passage, form dangerous rapids of three miles in length, precipitating their white and broken waves one upon another in irregular

gradations. These cascades are nine miles below the entrance into Lake Superior, and about fifty miles from the Detour, already mentioned.

The whole of this distance is occupied by a variety of islands, which divide it into separate channels, and enlarge its width, in some situations, beyond the extent of sight.

It is at the bottom of the rapids, and even among their billows, which foam with ceaseless impetuosity, that innumerable quantities of excellent fish may be taken, from the spring until the winter; the species which is found in the greatest abundance is denominated by the savages, atticameg, or white fish; the Michilimakinac trout, and pickerell, are likewise caught here. These afford a principal means of subsistence to a number of native tribes.

No small degree of address, as well as strength, is employed by the savages in catching these fish; they stand in an erect attitude in a birch canoe, and even amid the billows, they push with force to the bottom of the waters, a long pole, at the end of which is fixed a hoop, with a net in the form of a bag, into which the fish is constrained to enter. They watch it with the eye when it glides among the rocks, quickly ensnare it, and drag it into the canoe. In conducting this mode of fishing much practice is required, as an inexperienced person may, by the efforts which he is obliged to make, overset the canoe, and inevitably perish.

The convenience of having fish in such abundance attracts to this situation, during summer, several of the neighbouring tribes, who are of an erratic disposition, and too indolent for the toils of husbandry. They, therefore, support themselves by the chace in winter, and by fishing in summer. The missionaries stationed at this place embraced the opportunity of instructing them in the duties of christianity, and their residence was distinguished by the appellation of the Mission of the Falls of Saint Mary, which became the center of several others.

The original natives of this place were the *Patrouiting Dach-Irini*, called by the French, *saulteurs*, as the other tribes resorted but occasionally thither. They consisted only of one hundred and fifty men; these, however, afterwards united themselves with three other tribes, who shared in common with them the rights of the territory. Their residence was here established, except when they betook themselves to the chace. The natives named Nouquet, ranged throughout the southern borders of Lake Superior, which was their natal soil. The Outchibons, with the Maramegs, frequented the northern coasts of the same lake, which they considered as their country. Besides these four tribes, there were several others dependent on this mission. The Achiligouans, the Amicours, and the Missasagues, came likewise to fish at the fall of Saint Mary, and to hunt on the isles, and on the territories in the vicinity of Lake Huron.

The ancient Hurons, from whom the lake derives its name, dwelt on its eastern confines. They were the first natives in this quarter who hazarded an alliance with the French, from whom they received Jesuit missionaries, to instruct them in the christian religion. These Europeans were stiled by the natives, Masters of Iron, and they who remained in those regions taught them to be formidable to their enemies. Even the Iroquois courted the alliance of the Hurons, who, with too great facility, relied on the pretended friendship and professions of that guileful people. The Iroquois at length found means to surprise them, and to put them in disorder, obliging some to fly to Quebec, and others towards different quarters.

The account of the defeat of the Hurons spread itself among the neighbouring nations, and consternation seized on the greater part of them. From the incursions which the Iroquois made when least expected, there was no longer any security. The Nepicirenians fled to the north; the Saulteurs and the Missasagues penetrated to the westward. The Outaouais and some other tribes bordering on Lake Huron, retired to the south. The Hurons withdrew to an island, where their late disaster only tended to endear the remembrance of their commerce with the French, which was now frustrated. After an attempt, attended with peril, they, however, again found their way to these Europeans. By a second irruption of the Iro-

quois, they were driven from their island, and took refuge among the Pouteouatamis. Part of the Hurons descended to Quebec, and formed a settlement to the northward of that place, of which an account has already been given.

The tribes frequenting the northern territories are savage and erratic, living upon fish and the produce of the chace; often upon the inner bark of trees. A kind of dry grey moss, growing on the rocks, called by the Canadians, *tripe de rochers*, not unfrequently supplies them with food. They ensnare and shoot beavers, elks, cariboos, and hares of an uncommon size. The lofty grounds abound in blue or huckle-berries, which they collect and dry, to eat in times of scarcity; but as these regions are in general sterile, many of the inhabitants perish by famine.

They whose hunting grounds are towards the north-west are more favoured by the productions of the soil. A species of rice, and wild oats, grow naturally in the marshes, and supply the deficiency of maize. The forests and plains are filled with bears and cattle, and the smaller islands, lakes, and rivers, abound with beavers. These people frequented the vicinity of Lakes Superior and Nipissing, to traffic with the natives who had intercourse with the French. Their principal commerce was, however, at Hudson's-bay, where they reaped a greater profit. They were pleased to receive iron and kettles in exchange for their worn peltry, of the value of which they were for some time ignorant.

The Nepicirenians and the Amehouest inhabited the coasts of Lake Nipissing. A great part of them were connected with the tribes of the north, from whom they drew much peltry, at an inconsiderable value. They rendered themselves masters of all the other natives in those quarters, until disease made great havock among them, and the Iroquois, insatiable after human blood, compelled the remainder of their tribe to betake themselves, some to the French settlements, others to Lake Superior, and to the Green bay on Lake Michigan.

The nation of the Otter inhabited the rocky caverns on Lake Huron, where they were sheltered by a labyrinth of islands and of capes.. They subsisted on Indian corn, on fish, and on the produce of the chace. They were simple, but courageous, and had frequent intercourse with the nations of the north. The Missasagues, or Estiaghics, are situated on the same lake, on a river generally called by the latter name. They, as well as the Saulteurs of Saint Mary, spread themselves along the borders of Lake Huron, where they procure the bark of trees to form canoes, and to construct their huts. The waters are so transparent, that fish can be seen at the depth of thirty feet. Whilst the women and children are collecting berries, the men are occupied in darting sturgeon. When their grain is almost ripe, they return home. On the approach of winter they resume their stations near the lake, for the pur-

pose of the chace, and forsake it in the spring, to plant their Indian corn, and to fish at the falls.

Such are the occupations of these people, who, if they were acquainted with economy, might live in abundance, which but a small portion of labour is here required to secure. But they are so habituated to gluttony and waste, that they take no thought for their subsistence on the following day. There are thus several who perish from hunger. They seldom reserve any provisions, and if a part happen to be left, it is from their being incapable of consuming the whole. When a stranger arrives among them, they will offer him their last morsel of food, to impress him with a persuasion that they are not in indigence. The forefathers of these natives were brave, but they have been so long in the enjoyment of indolence and tranquillity, that they have degenerated in valour, and make war only on the beasts of the forest, and the inhabitants of the waters.

The Hurons, more prudent, look forward to the future, and support their families. As they are in general sober, it is seldom they are subject to distress. The tribe is artful, political, proud, and of greater extent of capacity than most of the other natives. They are liberal, grave, decent in discourse, in which they express themselves with accuracy, insinuating, and not subject to be duped in their dealings.

The Outaouais have endeavoured to assume the manners and maxims of this people. They were formerly extremely rude, but, by intercourse with the Hurons, they have become more intelligent. They imitated their valour, and made themselves formidable to all the nations with whom they were at enmity, and respected by those with whom they were in alliance.

The factory of the company of merchants of Montreal is situated at the foot of the cascades of Saint Mary, on the north side, and consists of store-houses, a saw-mill, and a bateaux-yard. The saw-mill supplies with plank, boards, and spars, all the posts on Lake Superior, and particularly Pine point, which is nine miles from thence, has a dock-yard for constructing vessels, and is the residence of a regular master-builder, with several artificers. At the factory there is a good canal, with a lock at its lower entrance, and a causeway for dragging up the bateaux and canoes. The vessels of Lake Superior approach close to the head of the canal, where there is a wharf; those of Lake Huron to the lower end of the cascades. These rapids are much shorter on the north than on the south side, a circumstance occasioned by the interposition of small islands. The company has lately caused a good road to be made, along which their merchandise is transported on wheeled carriages from the lower part of the cascades to the depôts. The houses are here constructed

of squared timber clap-boarded, and have a neat appearance.

On the north side of the rapids, about six families, consisting of Americans and domiciliated Indians, are established. The taxes imposed by the government of the United States upon all kinds of merchandise, are unfavourable to the commerce of its subjects with the Indians in these regions.

Lake Superior, to which was formerly given the name of Tracey, and likewise that of Condé, composes a collection of fresh waters of the first magnitude in the known world. Although several posts in its vicinity were long occupied by French traders, and by missionaries, yet only a small portion of geographical information was obtained through their means. The length of this lake is four hundred miles, and its circumference one thousand five hundred and twenty miles. It is subjected to frequent storms, and a swell, similar to that of the tide of the ocean, rolls in upon its coasts. The navigation is here dangerous when the wind blows with strength, and travellers, for this reason, keep near to the north shore, which, being bordered throughout by barren rocks of considerable elevation, nature has provided at no great distances from each other, a variety of small harbours, and places of safe retreat.

Pine point and Point au Foin form the entrance into

the lake. White-fish point is on the south shore, opposite to which, on the north coast, and at the distance of fifteen miles across, there is a mine of copper, formerly worked by the French. That metal is here found in native purity, uncontaminated by mixture with any extraneous substances.

The cape, about nine miles from hence, is in latitude forty-six degrees, thirty-two minutes, fifty-eight seconds, and in longitude eighty-four degrees, nineteen minutes, fifty-seven seconds. The traveller, on passing White-fish point, is agreeably astonished by the developement of a vast and unbounded expanse of crystalline waters. A great evaporation must here necessarily take place, and in summer this is dissolved in the dry and warm atmosphere; except during the prevalence of an easterly wind, which by the coolness and humidity it carries with it, condenses the vapour into fogs, and collects it into torrents of rain. The waters of this lake appear to be subject, at particular periods, to a great increase, succeeded by a gradual diminution; and along the rocks of the eastern coast lines are observable, which indicate the rise and fall. The greatest distance between these horizontal marks impressed by the waters, is not more than five or six feet. The greater or less quantities of snows, which in winter cover to a considerable depth immeasurable regions, and which on their dissolution flow into this pellucid ocean, may probably be

productive of this phenomenon. The soil in the vicinity of the eastern shore is rocky and shallow, yielding only stunted trees, brambles, strawberries, raspberries, and other fruits of humble growth, the feeble tribute of sterility. The bears find in them a grateful food, and are attracted thither. Moose and fallow deer also range along these coasts.

The islands in this lake are *isle aux Erables*, isle of Michipicoton, Carribou island, *isles ance à Bouteille*, Peek island, *Milles isles*, *isle Royale*, isles of the twelve Apostles, and Montreal island on the south-west coast. The most remarkable bays are Michipicoton bay, Black bay, Thunder bay, Fond du Lac or West bay, Ance de Chagoumegon, whose point is in latitude forty-seven degrees, two minutes, twenty seconds, and longitude ninety-one degrees, four minutes; Quieouman bay, formed by a large peninsula, situated on the south, and bay *des isles au pais plat*.

The river Michipicoton communicates with the territory of the Hudson's bay company, and the society of merchants at Montreal, who trade to the north-west regions, have considerable posts established on it. A fort, consisting of a stockaded square, with a dwelling-house and two small store-houses, are erected at the mouth of the larger Peek, there being two rivers of that name, which fall into the lake on the northern coast. The rapids on this river are numerous, but the carrying-places are in general short.

Beyond Otter Head, in latitude forty-eight, four, six; longitude, eighty-five, fifty-two, twenty-nine; at the bottom of a bay formed by that point, a waterfall of seventy feet in height, presents itself, and contributes by its sound, splendour, and movements, to enliven the stillness and solitude which prevail in these distant and desolate regions.

The river Nepigon, or Lemipisake, flows into the wide and extensive bay of the isles *au pais plat*, and has a near communication with Hudson's bay. It has several posts established on its borders; it forms the discharge of Lake Alimipigon, and at its north-east source travellers may arrive, by means of a portage, at the Perray, which runs into Hudson's bay.

The commerce of the Hudson's bay company possessing many advantages over that which is conducted from Canada by means of the lakes, might be rendered much more productive than it is at present. The articles which are exchanged with the natives for their furs, can be afforded at a much cheaper rate through the route by the bay, than by the tedious, difficult, and circuitous way of the rivers and lakes of Canada, and the Indians, for this reason, give a preference to the commerce of the former.

A place named the *Grande Portage* is situated on a river at the western side of the lake, in a bay which forms a

crescent, and whose borders are cleared and enclosed. It is now in possession of the government of the United States, and was until lately a place of great resort for the trading companies of Montreal, as the principal depôt for these regions, was here established. The defence, placed under a hill of upwards of four hundred feet in elevation, surmounted by a congeries of others, consists of a large picketed fort, with three gates, over which are two guard-houses. The ranges of buildings for stores and dwelling-houses, which were occupied for the accommodation of the different persons engaged in the north-west trade, are very extensive. The canoe-yard, for constructing canoes used for penetrating into the interior parts of the country, is upon a great scale, seventy canoes per annum having been contracted for. The number of persons encamped in tents and in huts, on the outside of the fort, was, at certain periods, very great, and tended to excite surprise that so considerable an assemblage of men, under no military restraint, should be retained in obedience, and in a state of tolerable regularity, so far beyond the limits of all civil jurisdiction. The fur trade was for some time conducted by two rival associations, who are now united. The establishment of the new company was about a quarter of a mile from that of the old, and consisted of a fort, picketed, and of buildings on the same plan as those of the latter, but upon a more circumscribed scale.

Fort Charlotte is placed upon the river *la Tourte*, which has a communication with the interior country; it consists of a stockaded quadrangle, with buildings and stores within it. The first carrying-place, in ascending that communication, is called the *Perdrix*, about three hundred and eighty yards in length; at the uppermost extremity, an elegant and romantic waterfall appears, throwing, like a moving white curtain, from the summit of a cliff of sixty feet in perpendicular altitude, revolving groups of resplendent foam.

The river Kamanastigua, which discharges its waters into Thunder bay, is about two hundred yards in width, and from ten to twelve feet in depth in the southern branch, there being three channels. The shore for about half a mile from the lake is low and swampy, after which it rises, and presents a soil of the richest quality. The first branch is found three miles up the river. The middle branch is about half a mile in length, and very narrow, the third is the largest, and about half a mile from the lake. Upon this branch the company of merchants of Montreal have established their new posts. A square of five hundred and twenty feet is inclosed with lofty pickets, within which are structures uniformly arranged, fitted for every purpose and accommodation.

Half a mile above this post there is the site of an old fort, which, during the French government, was the prin-

cipal commercial depôt in this remote region. The first rapid is six miles up the river, the first carrying-place is twenty miles. The mouth of this river is sheltered by a rocky island, and the entrance is perfectly secure. The bar has seven feet of water over it, and ten or twelve feet both within and without, and the bay itself is protected by islands.

Lake Superior receives into its bosom near forty rivers, some of which are of considerable magnitude. It is well stored with a variety of fish, the largest and best of which are the trout, the white fish, and the sturgeon, of a quality superior to that caught in the lower parts of the Saint Lawrence. The waters are more pure and pellucid than those of any other lake upon this globe, and the fish, as well as the rocks, can be distinctly seen at a depth incredible to persons who have never visited those regions. The density of the medium on which the vessel moves appears scarcely to exceed that of the atmosphere, and the traveller becomes impressed with awe at the novelty of his situation. The southern coast is in many places flat, and the soil is of a sandy and barren nature.

Although the course of the Saint Lawrence is usually computed at no more than about two thousand five hundred miles, yet the distance of country through which a river flows is by no means a just criterion of its grandeur; and the rivers Amazon and la Plata, from the greater

length of their courses, have been allowed, in the order of magnitude, to usurp a preference to the former, which, notwithstanding, is the most navigable upon earth. Ships of considerable size, which every year arrive from Great Britain, ascend with ease this river as far as Montreal, a distance of five hundred miles from the sea. In advancing higher up its course, instead of diminishing, like almost all other rivers, in width as well as depth, the traveller is impressed with astonishment at its majesty; and, in many places, its apparently unbounded extension. At the distance of two thousand miles from its mouth, vessels of the first class might be constructed and navigated, a property hitherto undiscovered in any other flood of fresh waters, and which, therefore, has a claim to precedence, as the largest and most stupendous in this world.

CHAPTER IX.

COMMERCE OF CANADA—FUR TRADE—PAPER MONEY—SEIGNEURIES—RIGHTS OF THEIR PROPRIETORS—MODERATE APPOINTMENTS OF COLONIAL OFFICERS—MAL-ADMINISTRATION OF FINANCE DURING THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT—STATE OF CANADA AT ITS CONQUEST—PROGRESSIVE IMPROVEMENT—REVENUE—YEARLY EQUIPMENT AND TRANSPORT IN THE FUR TRADE—VOYAGEURS—HARDINESS AND MODE OF LIFE—DIFFICULTIES OF NAVIGATION ON THE OUTAOUAIS RIVER—ROMANTIC WATERFALLS—PORTAGES.

THE original source of all the misfortunes, and of all the obstacles to the advancement and prosperity of the provinces, which were formerly distinguished by the appellation of New France, was the report, that at a very early period spread itself over the parent kingdom, that no mines were to be found in that part of North America. Little attention was therefore bestowed on the advantages which might have been derived from the colony, by encouraging and augmenting its commerce. Population made but a slow progress, and the inducement presented to the inhabitants of France to remove thither was not very alluring. The sole objects for commercial enterprise, which Canada and Acadia at that time afforded, were the fisheries and the fur trade. Had it been the fortune of

these countries to have attracted in a greater degree the attention of the court to their intrinsic value and importance, the settlements would have advanced with greater rapidity, and reciprocal advantages to the parent state and to the colony, would have arisen.

But the splendour of the precious metals which were imported from Mexico and Peru, had so dazzled the eyes of all the inhabitants of Europe, that a territory which produced not these, was considered as undeserving of attention. New France fell, therefore, into disrepute, before a knowledge of its soil, and of the species of productions of which it was capable, could be ascertained. Even they, who were convinced that considerable advantages might be drawn from it, took no active measures towards promoting the means of their accomplishment. Much time was allowed to elapse, before the choice of a situation was made; the land was often cleared, without a previous examination of the qualities of its soil. It was planted with grain, buildings were erected, and after much labour had thus been lavished on it, the colonist frequently abandoned it, and went to settle elsewhere. This spirit of inconstancy contributed to the loss of Acadia to France, and operated as an insuperable barrier to the acquisition of any advantage from that extensive peninsula.

The commerce of Canada was long confined to the fisheries and to the fur trade. The cod-fishery was car-

ried on at the Great Bank, and on the coast of Newfoundland, some time before the river Saint Lawrence was explored. The harbour and bay of Placentia were occupied by the French.

The province of Acadia, now called Nova Scotia, was originally shared among different individuals, no one of whom enriched himself, whilst the English were conducting upon the coast an extensive and profitable fishery. The settlements which these proprietors made, destitute of solidity, and formed upon no regular plan, were at length abandoned, little more improved than when they were first entered on, and fallen into such disrepute, that the country did not regain its character until the moment when it became lost to France. When this region was first discovered, it abounded with wild animals of great variety of species. A handful of Frenchmen found means to sweep these extensive forests of their four-footed inhabitants, and in less than an age to cause them totally to disappear. Some there were, whose species became entirely extinguished. Orignals and elks were killed for no other design but that of amusement, and of exercising address in the chace. The authority of government was not interposed to remedy a disorder so destructive; but from the avarice of individuals who applied themselves only to this commerce, a yet greater evil was produced.

The emigrants who arrived from France were in gene-

ral in a state of wretchedness and poverty, and were desirous of re-appearing in their native country in a better condition. In the commencement of the settlement there was little impediment to the acquisition of wealth by the produce of the chace. The Indians were yet ignorant of the treasures which their native woods afforded, and became acquainted with their value, only from the avidity with which the furs were snatched from their hands. In exchange for articles of no value whatever, prodigious quantities were acquired from them. When they had even become more acquainted with the importance of this species of commerce, and more attentive to their own interests, it was still for a long time easy to satisfy them at a small expence. With some degree of prudence, therefore, it would not have been difficult to have continued this traffic upon an advantageous footing. Considerable fortunes were made with rapidity; but they were almost as quickly dissipated as they had been acquired; like those moving hills, which in the sandy deserts of Asia or of Africa, are drifted and deposited by the whirlwinds, and which possessing no consistency or solidity, are by the same cause again as suddenly dispersed.

Nothing was more common in New France, than to behold individuals, protracting in wretchedness and misery a languishing old age, after having through folly lost the opportunities which were afforded them of procuring

an honourable subsistence. The condition of these people, unworthy of the fortunes which it was once in their power to have gained, would by no means have become a subject of public regret, had not ill effects thence arisen to the colony, which was soon reduced to the mortification of finding almost totally exhausted, or diverted into other channels, a source of wealth which might have continued to flow into its bosom. The origin of its ruin was generated from its too great abundance.

By the immense accumulation of beaver skins, which always constituted a principal part of this commerce, so great a quantity was found in the magazines, that there was no longer any demand for them; whence it arose, that the merchants were unwilling to receive any more. The adventurers, therefore, who in Canada were stiled *Coureurs de Bois*, embraced the only opportunity which was offered for disposing of them, by carrying them to the English; and many of these people established themselves in the province of New York. The attempts made to prevent those desertions, were not attended with success; on the contrary, they whom interest had led into the territories of the English, were there retained by the dread of punishment, should they return to their country; and others, whose inclination disposed them to enjoy the freedom and libertinism of an erratic mode of life, remained among the savages, from whom they could afterwards be distin-

guished, only by their exceeding them in vice and immorality. To recal these fugitives, recourse was at length had to the publication of amnesties, and even this measure was long of little avail; by prudence and perseverance, it at length produced in some degree the intended effect.

Another mode yet more efficacious was employed, that of granting to persons, on whose fidelity a reliance could be placed, licences to trade in the territories of the Indians, and of prohibiting all other inhabitants from leaving the colony. The nature of these licences, and the conditions on which they were bestowed, has already been described in another work.* From this practice it arose, that a great proportion of the young men were continually wandering throughout the distant forests; and although they committed not, at least so openly, the disorders which had brought such discredit on this occupation, yet they failed not to contract a habit of libertinism, of which they could never wholly divest themselves. They there lost all relish for industry, they exhausted their strength, they became impatient of all restraint; and when no longer able to undergo the fatigue of these voyages, which happened at an early period of life, because their exertions were excessive, they became destitute of all resource, and unfit for the functions of society. Hence proceeded the

* History of Canada, Book IV. page 197.

cause that agriculture was long neglected, that immense tracts of fertile lands remained uncultivated, and that the progress of population was retarded.

It was repeatedly proposed to abolish these licences, so prejudicial to the advancement of improvement, in such a manner as that the commerce might not suffer, and with a view of rendering it even more flourishing. This design was to be effected by the formation of small settlements, in situations where it would be convenient for the natives to assemble at certain seasons of the year. By this means it was conceived, that these vast countries would become insensibly peopled, and that the savages, attracted by the assistance and kindness which they would experience from the French, would perhaps abandon their erratic mode of life, would thereby be exposed to less misery, would multiply instead of diminish in numbers, and would form such an attachment to these Europeans, as perhaps would induce them to become fellow-subjects.

The several settlements of Lorette, of the sault Saint Louis, and others of the Algonquins and of the domiciliated Abinaquis, exhibited examples of the probable success of that undertaking, It was, however, never put in execution, and the natives have rapidly decreased in numbers. An extended chain of settlements, at convenient distances from each other, might have been made, and the colonies of Canada and Louisiana being thus con-

nected, would have been enabled to have afforded to each other mutual assistance. By means like these, the English, in less than a century and a half, peopled more than fifteen hundred miles of territory, and thus created a power on this continent not less formidable than dreaded by the French.

Canada has for many years carried on with the islands in the gulph of Mexico, a commerce in flour, planks, and other wood adapted for buildings. As there is not, perhaps, another country in the world which produces a greater variety of woods, some of which are excellent in their kind, considerable advantages are derived from thence.

Nothing so much contributed to the languishing state in which the trade of this colony was for some time retained, as the frequent alterations which took place in the medium of exchange. The company of the West Indies, to whom was conceded the domain of the French islands, was permitted to circulate there a small coin, whose number was not to exceed the value of a hundred thousand francs, and whose use in any other country was prohibited. But, difficulties arising from the want of specie, the council published a decree, by which it was ordained, that this coin, and all other money which was in circulation in France, should not only be used in the islands, but also in the provinces on the continent, on

augmenting the value one-fourth. The decree enjoined, that all notes of hand, accounts, purchases, and payments, should be made by every person without exception, at the rate of exchange thus settled. It had likewise a retrospective operation, and stated, that all stipulations for contracts, notes, debts, rents, and leases, should be valued in money, according to that currency.

This regulation tended, in its execution, to occasion many difficulties. The intendant of Canada found at that period inexpressible embarrassment, not only in the payment of the troops, but for all other expences of government in the colony. The funds remitted for this purpose from France, arrived generally too late; and it was necessary on the first of January to pay the officers and soldiers, and to satisfy other charges not less indispensable. To obviate the most urgent occasions, the intendant, with the concurrence of the council, issued notes instead of money, observing always the proportional augmentation in the value of the coin. A *procès verbal* was accordingly framed, and by virtue of an ordinance of the Governor-general and Intendant, there was stamped on each piece of this paper-money, which was a card, its value, the signature of the treasurer, an impression of the arms of France, and, on sealing-wax, those of the Governor and Intendant. They were afterwards imprinted in France, with the same impressions as the current money of the

kingdom; and it was decreed, that before the arrival in the colony, of vessels from France, a particular mark should be added, to prevent the introduction of counterfeits.

This species of money did not long remain in circulation, and cards were again resorted to, on which new impressions were engraved. Those of the value of four livres and upwards, were signed by the intendant, who was satisfied with distinguishing the others by a particular mark. Those which were six livres and upwards, the Governor-general formerly likewise signed. In the beginning of autumn all the cards were brought to the treasurer, who gave for their value bills of exchange on the treasurer-general of the marine, or on his deputy at Rochefort, on account of the expences of the ensuing year. Such cards as were spoiled were not again used in circulation, and were burnt agreeably to a *procès verbal* for that purpose.

Whilst the bills of exchange continued to be faithfully paid, the cards were preferred to money; but when that punctuality was discontinued, they were no longer brought to the treasurer, and the intendant * had much fruitless trouble in endeavouring to recal those which he had issued. His successors, in order to defray the necessary expences of the government, were obliged to issue new cards every

* M. de Champigny, in 1702.

year, by which means they became so multiplied, that their value was annihilated, and no person would receive them in payment. Commerce, by this injudicious system of finance, was entirely deranged; and the inconvenience rose to such a height, that in 1713 the inhabitants proposed to lose one-half, provided the government would pay them the other in money. This proposal was in the following year agreed to, but the orders given in consequence were not carried into compleat execution until four years afterwards. A declaration abolishing the paper money was then published, and the expences of the colony were again paid in cash. The augmentation of one-fourth was at the same time abolished, experience having suggested, that the increase of value in money in a colony is not an effectual means of retaining it there; and that it cannot remain long in circulation, unless the articles imported from the parent state be repaid in produce.

The commerce of the colony was, in 1706, carried on with a fund of six hundred and fifty thousand livres,* which for several years afterwards did not much augment. This sum distributed among thirty thousand inhabitants, could not place them in affluent circumstances, nor afford them the means of purchasing the merchandise of France. The greatest part of them were, therefore, almost in a

* 26,000*l.* sterling.

state of nature; particularly they whose residence was in the remote settlements. Even the surplus of their produce and stock they were unable to sell to the inhabitants of the towns, because, in order to subsist, the latter were necessitated to cultivate farms of their own.

When the King withdrew Canada from the hands of the company of the Indies, he for some time expended on that province much larger portions of money than he did at any future period, and the colony then remitted in beaver skins, to the value of a million of livres, a greater quantity than was afterwards exported. But articles were every year imported from France, amounting to a much greater value than could be paid, and the inhabitants acted like inconsiderate individuals, whose expences far exceed their income.

Thus fell the credit of the colony; and, in falling, it occasioned the ruin of commerce, which, in 1706, consisted only of furs of an inferior quality. The merchants were, notwithstanding, emulous of purchasing them; this circumstance tended to accelerate their overthrow, because they frequently paid to the savages a higher price than these articles were sold for in France.

When the French began their settlements in Canada, the country exhibited one vast and unbounded forest, and property was granted in extensive lots, called *Seigneuries*, stretching along either coast of the Saint Lawrence, for a

distance of ninety miles below Quebec, and thirty miles above Montreal, comprehending a space of three hundred miles in length.

The seigneuries each contain from one hundred to five hundred square miles, and are parcelled out into small tracts, on a freehold lease to the inhabitants, as the persons to whom they were granted had not the means of cultivating them. These consisted of officers of the army, of gentlemen, and of communities, who were not in a state to employ labourers and workmen. The portion to each inhabitant was of three acres in breadth, and from seventy to eighty in depth, commencing on the banks of the river, and running back into the woods, thus forming an entire and regular lot of land.

To the proprietors of *seigneuries* some powers, as well as considerable profits, are attached. They are by their grants authorized to hold courts, and sit as judges in what is termed *haute* and *basse justice*, which includes all crimes committed within their jurisdiction, treasons and murder excepted. Few, however, exercised this privilege except the ecclesiastical seigneurs of Montreal, whose right of jurisdiction the king of France purchased from them, giving them in return his *droit de change*. Some of these seigneurs have a right of villain service from their tenants.

At every transfer, or mutation of proprietor, the new purchaser is bound to pay a sum equal to a fifth part of

the purchase-money to the seigneur, or to the king; but if this fine be paid immediately, only one-third of the fifth is demanded. This constituted a principal part of the king's revenues in the province. When an estate falls by inheritance to a new possessor, he is by law exempted from the fine.

The income of a seigneur is derived from the yearly rent of his lands, from *lots et vents*, or a fine on the disposal of property held under him, and from grist-mills, to whose profits he has an exclusive right. The rent paid by each tenant is inconsiderable; but they who have many inhabitants on their estates enjoy a tolerably handsome revenue, each person paying in money, grain, or other produce, from five to twelve livres *per annum*. In the event of a sale of any of the lots of his *seigneurie*, a proprietor may claim a preference of re-purchasing it, which is seldom exercised, but with a view to prevent frauds in the disposal of the property. He may also, whenever he finds it necessary, cut down timber for the purpose of building mills, and making roads; tythes of all the fisheries on his domain likewise belong to him.

Possessed of these advantages, *seigneurs* might in time attain to a state of comparative affluence, were their estates allowed to remain entire. But, by the practice of divisions among the different children of a family, they become, in a few generations, reduced. The most ample share, which

retains the name of *seigneurie*, is the portion of the eldest son; the other partitions are denominated *fiefs*. These are, in the next generation, again subdivided, and thus, in the course of a few descents, a seigneur is possessed of little more than his title. This is the condition of most of those estates that have passed to the third or fourth generation.

The inhabitants in like manner make divisions of their small tracts of land, and a house will sometimes belong to several proprietors. It is from these causes that they are in a great measure retained in a state of poverty, that a barrier to industry and emulation is interposed, and that a spirit of litigation is excited.

There are in Canada upwards of an hundred seigneuries, of which that at Montreal, belonging to the seminary of Saint Sulpicius, is the richest and most productive. The next in value and profit is the territory of the Jesuits. The members of that society who resided at Quebec were, like the priests of Montreal, only agents for the head of their community. But since the expulsion of their order from France, and the seizure, by the catholic sovereigns of Europe, of all the lands of that society within their dominions, the Jesuits in Canada held their *seigneurie* in their own right.

Some of the domiciliated savages hold, also, in the province, lands in the right of seigneurs.

Upon a representation of the narrow circumstances to which many of the *noblesse* and gentlemen of the colony were reduced, not only by the causes already assigned, but by others equally powerful, Louis the Fourteenth was induced to permit persons of that description to carry on commerce by sea or land, without being subjected to any enquiry on this account, or to an imputation of their having derogated from their rank in society.

To no *seigneurie* is the right of patronage to the church attached; it was upon the advancement of the pretensions of some seigneurs, founded on their having built parochial churches, that the king, in 1685, pronounced in council, that this right should belong to the bishop, he being the most capable of judging concerning the qualifications of persons who were to serve, and the incomes of the curacies also being paid from the tythes, which belonged to him alone. The right of patronage was, at the same time, declared not to be reputed an honour.

The salaries allotted to the officers of the civil departments in the French colonial governments were extremely moderate, and inadequate to support their respective situations. In 1758, that of the Marquis de Vaudreuil, governor and lieutenant-general of Canada, amounted to no more than 272*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.* sterling, out of which he was to cloath, maintain, and pay, a guard for himself, consisting of two serjeants and twenty-five soldiers, furnishing them

with firing in winter, and with other necessary articles The pay of the whole officers of justice and police was 514*l.* 11*s.* sterling, and the total sum appropriated for the pay of the established officers, composing the various branches of the civil power, exceeded not 3809*l.* 8*s.* sterling.

At the period when this arrangement of pay was settled, these sums might, perhaps, have been considered as sufficiently ample. To increase the salaries of the various officers of a government, when an augmentation of the value of the articles of life, disproportionate to their means, shall render it expedient, is a measure of ministerial policy, upon the whole not unprofitable to a state. A partial adherence to ancient regulations, with a view of concealing the public expenditure, is a system of economy founded in error. This has in many instances, but particularly with regard to the country of which we are speaking, been productive of a torrent of general peculation, whose destructive course drew along with it embarrassments, which it required the strongest efforts of political wisdom to remedy and to overcome.

The paper money in Canada amounted, in 1754, to so large a sum, that the government was compelled to remit to a future period the payment of it. The quantity every day acquired an increased accumulation, and this money fell at length into total disrepute. Merchandise rose in

proportion as the medium of exchange became decried. The officers of government and the troops were the principal consumers, and the evil of scarcity, and the discredit of the paper money, were chiefly derived from that cause. In 1759 the minister was obliged wholly to suspend payment of the bills of exchange, whose amount was enormous. Considerable sums were, at the conclusion of the war, due by the government of France to the Canadians, and Great Britain, whose subjects they were become, obtained for them an indemnity of 112,000l. in bonds, and of 24,000l. sterling in money. They therefore received in payment at the rate of fifty-five per cent. upon their bills of exchange, and thirty-four per cent. on account of their ordonnances or paper money.

The derangement and default which we have stated, arose likewise in a great degree, from the mal-administration of finance, and from a total dereliction of principle in those to whom that department was committed.

From the foregoing facts it may easily be conceived, that when the English took possession of Canada, they found its inhabitants to have made but little progress in commerce or in agriculture. The long continuance of warfare might have tended to depress the former, but the latter had never attained to any stage of improvement.

One article of commerce the Canadians had, by their

own imprudence, rendered altogether unprofitable. Ginseng was first discovered in the woods of Canada in 1718. It was from that country exported to Canton, where its quality was pronounced to be equal to that of the ginseng procured in Corea or in Tartary, and a pound of this plant, which before sold in Quebec for twentypence, became, when its value was once ascertained, worth one pound and tenpence sterling. The export of this article alone is said to have amounted, in 1752, to twenty thousand pounds sterling. But the Canadians, eager suddenly to enrich themselves, reaped this plant in May, when it should not have been gathered until September, and dried it in ovens, when its moisture should have been gradually evaporated in the shade. This fatal mistake arising from cupidity, and in some measure from ignorance, ruined the sale of their ginseng, among the only people upon earth who are partial to its use, and at an early period cut off from the colony a new branch of trade, which, under proper regulations, might have been essentially productive.

The imports of Canada, during seven years of its most flourishing trade, previous to the conquest of the country, amounted annually to about 160,000*l.*, and sometimes to 240,000*l.* sterling. The exports seldom exceeded 80,000*l.* sterling, and frequently less than that sum. This deficiency was in a considerable degree supplied every year by

the French government, which expended large sums in building ships, and on the fortifications, to which was added the payment of the troops, besides other disbursements. These, it has already been noticed, were settled by bills drawn on the treasury in France, and, whilst they were punctually paid, sufficiently supplied the balance.

The traders who emigrated thither from Great Britain found, for the first two or three years after the reduction of the country, a considerable advantage in the great quantities of furs then in the colony, in bills drawn by those inhabitants who were determined to remain under the British government, and who had money in France, in bills drawn on the paymaster-general of the forces, in London, for the subsistence of five or six regiments, and in what were termed *Canada bills*. But these resources became in a a great degree exhausted, and commerce fell into a state of progressive languishment and decline.

The inhabitants for upwards of a century had been accustomed to manufacture in their own families, druggets, coarse linens, stockings, and worsted caps knitted with wires. For the men, and for themselves to wear during the summer months, the women fabricated hats and bonnets of straw. Few European articles were at that time required by this people, who observed in their modes of living the most rigid frugality. The wool produced from the breed of sheep is, from the coldness of the cli-

mate, of a nature too coarse to enter into the composition of fine cloths. The lint, tobacco, and hemp, raised by the inhabitants, are principally designed for the use of their families. Until the arrival in the colony of some farmers from Great Britain, they were but little acquainted with the science of agriculture. No sooner were the fields become exhausted, than the inhabitants betook themselves to clear, and to cultivate new lands; they were ignorant of the application of manure, and of the amelioration which its introduction can effect, in the productive quality of soils. Their natural aversion to industry, their propensity to ease, and their disposition to vanity, induced a great part of the colonists to raise a larger proportion of horses than of cattle; the labour of the latter being found in tillage equally useful with that of the former, the sources of provision were thus unnecessarily stinted.

The quantity of produce exported in 1769 amounted in value to 163,105l. sterling, and was shipped in seventy vessels belonging to Great Britain and to her subjects in the different colonies in North America. Rum, coffee, brown sugar, and melasses, were brought thither from the West Indies; Spain, Italy, and Portugal, supplied brandy, wines, oils, and salt, in return for grain. Cloths, linens, muslins, silks, household furniture, teas, refined sugars, tools, glass, utensils, colours, hard and crockery-ware, were supplied by England.

Not more than twelve small vessels were at this period engaged in the fisheries on the river Saint Lawrence, and abou six were sent to the West Indies. The construction of vessels was for a long time laid aside. This might, in some degree, be attributed to the scarcity of artificers, and to the high wages which were consequently demanded.

In the course of two or three years after the period we have now mentioned, the debts due to the colony were paid, and paper money entirely disappeared. The commerce of Canada remained long in a state of fluctuation, caused by the increase or decrease of demand in European countries, for the productions which it supplied. It seems, however, in a course of ten years, to have considerably augmented, and the number of vessels employed in 1775 was ninety-seven, containing ten thousand eight hundred and forty-one tons. At the end of ten years more, the trade appears not to have been so extensive, fifty-seven ships only having been then entered at the port of Quebec. But the lapse of another period of ten years had contributed, in a great degree, to enlarge it; and in 1795 not less than a hundred and twenty-eight vessels, amounting to nineteen thousand, nine hundred and fifty-three tons, navigated by one thousand and sixty-seven men, arrived in the Saint Lawrence. This increase may be attributed to the scarcity of grain which at that period prevailed in Great Britain, and in most of the other countries of Eu-

rope. Three hundred and ninety-five thousand bushels of wheat, eighteen thousand barrels of flour, and twenty thousand cwts. of biscuit were that year exported from Canada.

The advanced prices which were then given for wheat and other grain tended to enrich the inhabitants, and had an influence in augmenting the value of all the articles of life. Many of the Canadians, even at a distance from the capital, began, from that period, to lay aside their ancient costume, and to acquire a relish for the manufactures of Europe. This revolution in dress has not a little contributed to the encouragement of commerce.

The construction of vessels at Quebec had begun, in the course of the foregoing year, to be carried on with spirit and success, by a company of London merchants, who sent to Canada an agent for conducting that branch. Several builders have since established themselves there, and from the demand which, in consequence of the war, has prevailed for vessels, they have reaped considerable profits.

A large exportation of grain took place in 1799, and the three following years. The quantity in 1802 was one million and ten thousand bushels of wheat, thirty-eight thousand barrels of flour, and thirty-two thousand cwts. of biscuit. The number of vessels engaged in the export of these, and other productions of the colony, was two

hundred and eleven; the quantity of tonnage was near thirty-six thousand, and the number of sailors was one thousand eight hundred and fifty.

The exports from Canada consist of wheat and other grain, flax-seed, beef and pork, butter and lard, soap and candles, grease and tallow, balsam, ale, porter, essence of spruce, salmon dry and pickled, fish-oil, timber, plank, boards, hemp, horses, cattle, sheep, pot and pearl-ashes, utensils of cast iron, furs of various descriptions, castoreum and ginseng. These articles amounted in value, in the year mentioned above, to five hundred and sixty-three thousand four hundred pounds sterling.

The imports were, wine of various kinds, rum, sugar, melasses, coffee, tobacco, salt, coals, and different articles of the manufacture of Great Britain.

The colonial revenues in that year amounted to thirty-one thousand two hundred pounds, and were derived from imposts, duties, *lots et vents*, and rents of property belonging to the king. The expenditures were forty-three thousand two hundred pounds.

The forges of Three Rivers and Battiscan not only supply the colony with utensils and stoves of cast iron, but likewise afford a quantity of those articles for exportation. At the former of these manufactories, hammered iron of the best quality is made.

The fur trade had, for a long period after the settlement

of the English in Canada, been conducted by a variety of individuals, and the interruption which it experienced, during the war between Great Britain and her colonies, cut off for a time the profits which formerly flowed into the province from that source.

At length, about the year 1784, a gentleman * of Montreal, whose mind was active and enterprising, formed an association of several merchants of that place, for the purpose of pushing this branch of commerce to a greater extension than it had ever before acquired. The associates stiled themselves the Company of the North-west, as it is from that quarter that the objects of their pursuit are principally derived, and for which the vast and immeasurable tracts of territory, yet unexplored by Europeans, seemed to present a productive and inexhaustible field. Several individuals, actuated by a spirit of adventure and discovery, as well as by the hope of profit, traversed an immense tract of wilds, to the westward and towards the north. One gentleman,† upwards of twelve years ago, particularly distinguished himself as the first who ever travelled across the continent of America, in these high latitudes, to the shores of the Pacific Ocean; an undertaking whose accomplishment demanded the greatest stretch of resolution, prudence, firmness, and exertion. More than one

attempt has since been made to perform the same journey, but without success.

Although, previous to the year 1790, immense quantities of furs were every year exported from Canada, yet the profits were not at that time by any means equal to those afterwards arising from this branch of commerce. A great proportion of peltry, particularly that of beaver, enters into the composition of some manufactures; but the price of furs is in a great measure influenced by fashion. By this standard, which constitutes the increase or decrease of demand, the market is principally regulated. The consumption of peltry for dress has, fortunately for the fur merchants, prevailed for many years past, and several have from this cause acquired independent fortunes.

The company trading to the north-west sends every year, to the posts on Lake Superior, about fifty canoes loaded with merchandise. These are dispatched about the beginning of May, from La Chine, a distance of nine miles above Montreal. The canoes are formed of the bark of the birch-tree, and closely lined with thin ribs made of a tough wood. The seams are sewed with radical fibres, called watape, and they are afterwards carefully covered over with gum to exclude the water. The bottom of the vessel is nearly flat, the sides are rounded, and either end terminates in a sharp edge. The price of one of these is

about twelve pounds sterling, and it is calculated to contain, on the perilous voyage for which it is destined, a weight equal to that which follows: Sixty-five pieces of merchandise of ninety pounds each; eight men, each weighing at least one hundred and sixty pounds; baggage allowed to these men, at forty pounds each, together with the weight of their provisions. The whole cargo of a canoe is, therefore, not less than eight thousand three hundred and ninety pounds, exclusive of two oil cloths to cover the goods, a sail and an axe, a towing-line to drag the canoe up the rapids, a kettle, a spunge to bail out the water imbibed by leakage; with gum, bark, watape, and utensils for repairing any injury which may be sustained on the voyage. The men are engaged at Montreal four or five months before they set out on their journey, and receive in advance their equipment, and one-third of their wages. Each man holds in his hand a large paddle; and the canoe, although loaded within six inches of the gunwale, is made to move along with wonderful expedition. The *voyageurs*, or navigators, are of constitutions the strongest and most robust; and they are at an early period inured to the encounter of hardships. The fare on which they subsist is penurious and coarse.* Fortified by habit

* Chiefly the grease of the bear, and a meal, or coarse flour, made from Indian corn.

against apprehension from the species of difficulties and perils with which they are about to struggle, they enter on their toils with confidence and hope. Whilst moving along the surface of the stream, they sing in alternate strains the songs and music of their country, and cause the desolate wilds on the banks of the Outaouais, to resound with the voice of chearfulness. They adapt in rowing their strokes to the cadence of their strains, and redouble their efforts by making them in time. In dragging the canoes up the rapids, great care is necessary to prevent them from striking against rocks, the materials of which they are composed being slight and easily damaged. When a canoe receives an injury, the aperture is stopped with gum melted by the heat of a piece of burning charcoal. Fibres of bark bruised, and moistened with gum in a liquid state, are applied to larger apertures; a linen rag is put over the whole, and its edges are cemented with gum.

The total number of men contained in the canoes, amounts usually to about three hundred and seventy-three, of which three hundred and fifty are navigators, eighteen are guides, and five are clerks. When arrived at the grand depôt, on Lake Superior, part of these ascend as far as the Rainy Lake, and they are usually absent from Montreal about five months. The guides are paid for this service thirty-seven pounds sterling, and are al-

lowed besides, a suitable equipment. The wages of the person who sits in the front of the canoe, and of him whose office it is to steer, are about twenty-one pounds sterling each; those of the other men, about twelve pounds ten shillings of the same money.

To each man, a blanket, shirt, and pair of trowsers are supplied; and all are maintained by their employers during the period of their engagement. The advantage of trafficking with the savages is likewise permitted, and some individuals procure by this means a profit amounting to more than double their pay.

From La Chine, the voyagers proceed with the little fleet of canoes, to the parish of Saint Ann, where the river becomes so rapid and broken, that they are necessitated to take out a part of their lading. This situation, containing the last church which is met with on the voyage, excepting those belonging to Indian missions, it is dedicated to the tutelar saint of voyagers, and the commencement of the route is reckoned from hence.

The lake of the two mountains is an enlargement of the Grand, or Outaouais river, immediately behind the island of Montreal, and is nearly twenty miles in length, but of unequal width. As in many parts it is not much above three miles broad, its borders are distinctly seen on each side, and present to the view fields in a state of cultivation, intermingled with woods. Two gently swelling

C. Heriot Esqr. pinx^t.

F. C. Lewis sculp.

hills, which rise on its north-east coast, and have been dignified with the appellation of mountains, give to the lake its name. On a point of land stretching from under these, an Indian village, called Canasadago, is situated, composed of two associations of domiciliated natives, one of the Algonquin, and the other of the Iroquois tribe. The village is separated by the church into two parts, the Algonquins possessing the east, and the Iroquois the western extremity. The whole of the inhabitants may amount to about two thousand. Each tribe has its distinct missionary, and the rites of the Roman Catholic religion are, in the same chapel, regularly and alternately performed in the respective tongues of these natives. The tract of land on which the village is built, belongs to the seminary of Montreal; and these Christian Indians are permitted by that community to retain it in their possession. A small portion of it only is cultivated by the women, and they reap from thence a moderate supply of Indian corn, tobacco, and culinary herbs. Like the other domiciliated natives of the colony, a considerable part of the men and women spend the winter in the woods, and in the occupation of the chace.

Lake Chaudiere is distant about one hundred miles from that of the two mountains. Here a waterfall occupies the breadth of the river, and dashing over a rugged and irregular cliff, of about thirty feet in altitude, exhibits,

to the view of the traveller, in the midst of a territory where dreary solitude prevails, an object at once brilliant, enlivening, and picturesque. Part of the river here diverging into a contrary channel, assumes a retrograde course, and pours into a basin, whose waters entirely disappear, but have probably a subterraneous communication with the channel farther down.

The river Rideau, directing its course from the southward, joins the Outaouais about a league below the fall now described, and presents a pleasing cataract. At a distance of forty miles up the latter, the falls of Les Chats disclose themselves to the eye, where over-hanging woods, rocks placed in perpendicular positions, and clouds of resplendent foam rolling down the precipice, contribute, amid the gloom of desolation, to cheer the mind of the observer. On the left side the largest body of water flows, and on the right there are several apertures on the summit of the cliff, through which the bursting waters force a passage, and falling upon irregular projections, are tossed outwards, as if driven by the revolution of wheels. The stream swiftly sweeps from the basin over broken and shelving rocks, and forms a variety of small cataracts.

When, in ascending the Outaouais, the voyagers approach the rapids, they draw the canoes to the shore, excepting one, which they join in dragging up, and lodge in a place of security. Another is in like manner conducted

to the head of the torrent, and they thus continue to drag until the whole are assembled. At the portages, where waterfalls and cataracts oblige them to unload, the men unite in aiding each other to convey the canoes and goods across the land, by carrying the former upon the shoulders of six or eight men, and the latter upon the back. A package of merchandise forms a load for one man, and is sustained by a belt which he places over his forehead.

They form their encampments at night upon islands, or upon the borders of the river. The murmuring sound of the streams, the wildness of the situation, and remoteness from the habitations of men, added to the nocturnal gloom, powerfully invite the imagination to indulge itself in a train of melancholy reflections. On the north-east shore, about sixty miles higher up than the falls last described, is the site of an old French fort called Coulogne; and six miles farther is that of another, named Defon. At a distance of seventy-two miles from the latter, is point *au Bapthême*, so denominated, because the rude ceremony is here performed of plunging into the waters of the Outaouais, such persons as have never before travelled thus far. An ordeal from which exemption may be purchased, by the payment of a fine. The land here rises into hills, whose summits are conical, presenting a scene rugged and romantic.

The torments inflicted by legions of musquitos and

flies, in journeying through these wildernesses, are intolerable to an European; but the hardy Canadians seem to disregard them, or to be but little subject to their attacks. At certain times the men put their canoes on shore, in order to cook their food, or to use their own expression, *pour faire la chaudiere.*

The channel of this river is in many situations interspersed with a multitude of islands, and its course is interrupted by a great variety of cataracts and rapids. About a hundred and twenty miles from point *au Baptême*, the great branch of the Outaouais flowing from Lake Tamiscaming, is passed by the traveller on his right, and the canoes proceed upwards by the smaller branch; having ascended this about thirty-six miles, the fall of *Paresseux* opens on the sight. Although not exceeding a height of twenty-five feet, it forms an object not less interesting than pleasing. Masses of stone rise above the summit of the fall, and disclose themselves part of the way down its course; the rough convexities, and the ravines which have been worn in the cliff, covered with boiling, restless clouds of foam, present a combination of lustre, motion, and unremitting sound.

Twenty-five miles from hence the voyagers walk along a carrying-place of eight hundred paces, named *portage premier musique*, pass up a small lake of nearly the same length, and enter on a second *portage musique* of twelve

hundred paces. From thence to the height of lands, and to the source of the smaller branch of the Outaouais, the distance is thirty miles. On quitting this branch they proceed by a portage of twenty acres to the small and winding stream, named *Chaussée de Castor*, some of whose sinuosities are avoided by a second and third portage of five hundred paces each. They then enter Lake Nipissing, whose length is fifty miles, and whose discharge into Lake Huron, through a course of a hundred and eight miles, is called French river, on which there is one carrying-place. After having thus encountered the toils of thirty-six portages, the voyagers navigate their canoes along the northern coast of Lake Huron, and pursue their route to the cascades of Saint Mary, a description of which has already been given.

In travelling to the north-west by the Outaouais river, the distance from Montreal to the upper end of Lake Huron is nine hundred miles; the journey may be performed in a light canoe, in the space of about twelve days; and in heavy canoes, in less than three weeks, which is astonishingly quick, when we reflect on the number of portages, and powerful currents to be passed.

About one-third of the men we have mentioned, remain to winter in the remote territories, during which they are occupied in the chace, and for this service their wages and allowances are doubled. The other two-thirds are engaged

for one or two years, and have attached to them about seven hundred Indian women and children maintained at the expence of the company; the chief occupation of the latter is to scrape and clean the parchments, and to make up and arrange the packages of peltry.

The period of engagement for the clerks is five or seven years, during which the whole of the pay of each is no more than one hundred pounds, together with cloathing and board. When the term of indenture is expired, a clerk is either admitted to a share in the company, or has a salary of from one hundred to three hundred pounds *per annum*, until an opportunity of a more ample provision presents itself.

The guides, who perform likewise the functions of interpreters, receive, besides a quantity of goods, a salary of about eighty-five pounds *per annum*. The foremen and steersmen who winter, have about fifty pounds sterling; and they who are termed the middle men in the canoes, have about eighteen pounds sterling *per annum*, with their cloathing and maintenance.

The number of people usually employed in the north-west trade, and in pay of the company, amounts, exclusive of savages, to twelve hundred and seventy or eighty men, fifty of whom are clerks, seventy-one interpreters and under clerks, eleven hundred and twenty are canoe-men, and thirty-five are guides.

The beaver skin is, among the savages, the medium of barter, and ten beaver-skins are given for a gun, one for a pound of powder, and one for two pounds of glass beads. Two martin skins are equal in value to one beaver skin, and two beaver to one otter skin.

CHAPTER X.

FORMER STATE OF COLONIAL GOVERNMENT—INTRODUCTION OF THE CRIMINAL CODE OF ENGLAND—QUEBEC BILL—NEW CONSTITUTION—SKETCH OF THAT SYSTEM—DIVISION OF CANADA INTO TWO PROVINCES—AND OF THESE INTO COUNTIES—ADVANTAGES OF CANADIAN SETTLERS—STATE OF SOCIETY—MANNERS—CHARACTER OF THE HABITANTS, OR LAND-HOLDERS—MODE OF CLEARING LANDS—ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY—SEIGNEURIES—PRODUCE OF SOILS—AGRICULTURE—UPPER CANADA—COLD, AND CAUSES OF ITS LONG DOMINATION—TRAVELLING IN WINTER—ROADS—HOUSES.

THE white inhabitants of Canada amounted, in 1758, to ninety-one thousand, exclusive of the regular troops, which were augmented or diminished, as the circumstances and exigencies of the country might require. The domiciliated Indians who were collected into villages, in different situations in the colony, were about sixteen thousand, and the number of Frenchmen and Canadians resident at Quebec was nearly eight thousand.

Previous to the year 1660, the influence of law was altogether unknown in Canada. The authority was entirely military, and the will of the governor, or of his lieutenant, was submitted to without ever being questioned. The sole power of bestowing pardon, of inflicting punish-

ment, of distributing rewards, of exacting fines, was vested in him alone. He could imprison without a shadow of delinquency, and cause to be revered as acts of justice all the irregularities of his caprice.

In the year mentioned above, a tribunal, to decide definitively on all law-suits of the colonists, was established in the capital. The *coûtume de Paris*, modified by local combinations, formed the code of these laws.

During the first four years after Canada came into possession of the British, it was divided into three military governments. At Quebec, and at Three Rivers, officers of the army became judges in causes civil as well as criminal. These important functions were, at Montreal, committed to the better order of inhabitants. An equal want of legal information appears to have been the lot of all parties, and the commandant of the district, to whom an appeal from their sentences could be made, was no less defective in jurisprudence.

The coast of Labrador was, in 1764, dismembered from Canada, and added to the government of Newfoundland; and Lake Champlain, with all the territory to the southward of the forty-fifth degree of north latitude was joined to the province of New York.

The extensive regions to the north, and west of Michilimakinac, in Lake Huron, were left without any jurisdiction. The territory from the mouth of the Saint Law-

rence, as far as that island, was placed under the authority of one chief.

The laws of the admiralty of England were, at the same time, established there, but these could only have a reference to the subjects of that country, into whose hands the whole of the maritime commerce necessarily flowed. To this improvement, beneficial to the interests of the colony, another of yet greater importance was added. This was the criminal code of England.

Before the introduction of this equitable mode of administering justice, a criminal, real or supposed, could be seized, thrown into confinement, and interrogated, without a knowledge of his crime or of his accuser; without being able to call to his aid, or to the alleviation of his distress, either friends, relatives or counsel.

He was compelled upon oath to declare the truth, or, in other words, to accuse himself, without any validity being attached to his solemn affirmation. It was the province of the lawyers or judges to embarrass him with captious questions, which could be more easily evaded, or more successfully answered, by effrontery and hardened villainy, than by innocence involved and confounded in a labyrinth of false accusation. The function of judge appeared to consist in the art of finding out the greatest number of persons whom he might accuse. The witnesses who had made depositions against the criminal were not

introduced to his presence until the instant before judgment was pronounced, by which he was either acquitted or delivered over to immediate punishment. In the former case, the person innocent obtained no indemnity; and a sentence of capital punishment was followed by confiscation of property. Such is the abridgment of the French criminal law.

The Canadians readily conceived, and felt, in a lively manner, the inestimable advantage of a system of jurisdiction too equitable to admit of any of the tyrannical modes of procedure which they had before been accustomed to witness or experience.

These people viewed not, however, with an equal degree of satisfaction the introduction of the civil code of England. They were prompted by habit and prejudice to give a preference to the ancient system under which their property had been protected. The magistrates, and other administrators of justice, found it, therefore, expedient to depart from the letter of the law, and to incline, in their decisions, to the maxims which had before prevailed.

By an act called the Qubec act, passed in the British legislature in 1775, Canada was extended to its ancient limits, and its former system of civil law, the *coûtume de Paris*, was restored. The criminal and maritime regulations of England were retained, free exercise of the Roman

catholic religion was allowed, and the profession of that faith was declared to be no impediment to the rights of the subject, or to his holding any office under the colonial government. Ecclesiastical *dimes*, and feodal obligations, resumed their validity.

A council formed by the sovereign might annul these arrangements, and exercise any power except that of imposing taxes. This body consisted of the lieutenant-governor, chief justice, secretary of the province, and of twenty other members chosen indifferently from the two nations, and subject only to an oath of fidelity. Each of these received a salary of an hundred pounds sterling a year. The expences of the civil government of the colony amounted, at that period, to twenty-five thousand pounds sterling a year, exclusive of the governor's salary. The amount of the colonial revenue exceeded not nine thousand pounds sterling.

This plan of vesting in the same individuals the executive and legislative powers was not, by any means, productive of satisfaction. The subjects who had emigrated thither from Great Britain, and who had established themselves in the colony, were displeased to behold a portion of their most valuable privileges withdrawn from their reach; and the Canadians, who had begun to relish the advantages of a free government, and who were encouraged to look forward for the introduction of the English con-

stitution, viewed with concern a barrier interposed to the accomplishment of their expectations. The system was not contemplated with partiality, even on the part of the statesman by whom it was originally framed. But its temporary operation was considered as expedient, on account of the symptoms of discontent which had then appeared in several of the British provinces on the continent of North America.

The country continued to be governed in this mode until 1792. By an act of the thirty-first year of his present majesty's reign, the Quebec bill already mentioned, was repealed, and all the advantages of the British constitution extended to this part of the empire. Agreeably to this law, Quebec was divided into two separate provinces, the one called Upper, the other Lower Canada. A legislative council and an assembly were at the same time constituted to each, and these bodies were empowered, with the assent of the governor, to pass such laws as should not be repugnant to the act to which they owed their political existence. The legislative council of Upper Canada consists of not fewer than seven members, and that of Lower Canada of not fewer than fifteen, subject to be augmented according to the royal pleasure. The members must be natural born subjects, persons naturalized, or such persons as became subjects by the conquest and cession of the country. By a residence out of their

respective provinces for a period of four entire successive years, without leave from his majesty, or for the space of two continued years without leave from the governor, or by taking an oath of allegiance to any foreign power, the seats of any members of the legislative council become vacated. These offices are otherwise held during life. The right of appointing or of removing the speaker of the legislative council is vested in the governor.

His majesty reserves to himself the power of creating, whenever he may think it expedient, dignities or titles in these provinces, descendable to heirs male, who may have the privilege of being summoned, when of age, to a seat in the legislative council. But this, on account of certain incapacities, may be suspended during life, and be resumed by the next lawful heir, on the death of the party who had been so deprived of his privilege.

The governor, by the king's authority, is empowered to call a house of assembly, whose members must be chosen for the counties or circles, by persons possessed of landed property of the clear yearly value of forty shillings sterling or upwards. For the towns the representatives must be elected by voters whose property consists of a dwelling-house and lot of ground in the town, of the yearly value of five pounds sterling or upwards, or who have been resident in the town for twelve months next before the date of the writ of summons, and shall have paid one year's

rent for a dwelling or lodging, at the rate of at least ten pounds sterling *per annum*.

The council and assembly must be convoked once in twelve months, and each legislature continues for a term of four years and no longer, subject however, if necessary, to be dissolved previous to the expiration of that period.

The king in council may declare his disallowance of any provincial act within two years from the time of its receipt in England; and all bills reserved for his majesty's pleasure, are to have no operation or validity until the royal assent be communicated to the colonial legislature.

A court of civil jurisdiction, composed of the governor with the executive council, for the purpose of hearing and deciding on appeals from the courts of law, was, by the same act, established in both provinces. From hence a further appeal may be made to the king in council.

The lands in Upper Canada must be granted in free and common soccage; and those in the lower province must likewise be bestowed according to the same mode of tenure, if required by the grantee.

The governor of either province, upon being so authorized by his majesty, may, with the advice of his council, erect parsonages, and endow them; he may also present incumbents, all of whom must be subjected to the ecclesiastical power of the protestant bishop.

The operation of this act of the British legislature was, by proclamation of the lieutenant-governor, declared to take effect in both provinces on the twenty-sixth day of December 1791 ; and another proclamation was published on the seventh of May in the following year, for the division of the province of Lower Canada into counties, cities, and boroughs. On the fourteenth of the same month writs were issued, returnable on the tenth of July. The names of the counties are ; Gaspé, Cornwallis, Devon, Hertford, Dorchester, Buckinghamshire, Richelieu, Bedford, Surrey, Kent, Huntingdon, York, Montreal, Effingham, Leinster, Warwick, Saint Maurice, Hampshire, Quebec county, Northumberland, Orleans. The cities, Quebec, upper and lower town, Montreal, eastward and westward divisions ; boroughs, William Henry or Sorel, and Three Rivers.

An act was passed in 1794 for the division of the province of Lower Canada into three districts, and for augmenting the number of judges ; in consequence of which, the courts of judicature at Quebec are now composed of a chief justice and three puisne judges. Those of Montreal of a chief justice and three puisne judges ; that of Three Rivers, of one judge ; and that of Gaspé, of one judge.

Every person in Canada may have within his power the means of acquiring a subsistence. The necessaries of life

are, in general, there to be procured at a cheaper rate than in most of the other parts of North America. The climate, although frequently inclining to extremes, both in cold and in heat, is nevertheless favourable to human health, and to the increase of population.

The number of *noblesse* born in the province amounted, during the French government, to more than that of all the other colonies. This circumstance originated from several families there having been ennobled by the sovereign, and from several officers of the regiment of Carignan-Saliéres having remained in the colony after the reduction of their corps. The population thus consisted, in a considerable proportion, of gentlemen who found themselves in situations by no means affluent. They became, therefore, necessitated to avail themselves of the privilege granted by Louis the Fourteenth to persons in their condition, and had recourse, for their support, to the occupation of retailers of merchandise.

The right of the chace and of fishing is here extended to all persons. The taxes, chiefly derived from wine and spirituous liquors, can by no means be considered as burdensome.

The inhabitants of Canada may be divided into four classes. Those belonging to the church and to religious orders, the *noblesse* or *seigneurs*, the mercantile body, and the landholders, stiled *habitants*.

The Roman catholic clergy of the province are more distinguished by devotion, benevolence, inoffensive conduct, and humility, than they are by learning or genius. They are regular and rigid in the practice of their religious ceremonies, and more devout, with perhaps less bigotry, than the ecclesiastics of any other country where the same religion prevails.

The merchants are of two kinds, the importers and the retailers. The latter receive the merchandise on credit, and being settled in different parts of the province, give produce in return for their goods.

In 1783 an account was taken of the number of inhabitants in the province; it was found to amount to one hundred and thirteen thousand of English and French, exclusive of the loyalists who settled in the upper province, and were in number about ten thousand. The population of Lower Canada may at present be admitted, by moderate computation, to be not less than two hundred and fifty thousand persons, and that of the upper province eighty thousand.

The secular and regular priests in the country exceed not a hundred and eighty, and the number of nuns of different orders may amount to two hundred and fifty. There are upwards of a hundred and twenty churches, and seven convents.

The *habitants*, or landholders, are honest, hospitable,

religious, inoffensive, uninformed, possessing much simplicity, modesty, and civility. Indolent, attached to ancient prejudices, and limiting their exertions to an acquisition of the necessaries of life, they neglect the conveniences. Their propensity to a state of inaction, retains many of them in poverty; but as their wants are circumscribed, they are happy. Contentment of mind, and mildness of disposition, seem to be the leading features in their character. Their address to strangers is more polite and unembarrassed than that of any other peasantry in the world. Rusticity, either in manners or in language, is unknown even to those who reside in situations the most remote from the towns. They have little inclination for novelty or improvement, and exhibit no great portion of genius, which may perhaps be in some degree attributed to the want of education, of examples to pursue, and of opportunities to excite emulation, or to unfold the latent qualities of the mind.

Their constitution, at an early period of life, is healthy and robust; and they can with patience and resolution encounter great fatigues, when necessity calls for exertion. Both men and women frequently live to an advanced period of life, but they soon look old, and their strength is not of long duration. Many of the women are handsome when young, but as they partake of the labours of the field, and expose themselves upon all occasions to the in-

fluence of the weather, they soon become of a sallow hue, and of a masculine form. Each family can, from its own resources, supply its wants. They manufacture their own linens and woollen stuffs, tan the hides of their cattle, make shoes and stockings, are their own carpenters, masons, wheelers, and taylors. They are sufficiently intelligent with regard to objects which relate to their own interest, and are seldom liable to be over-reached.

They are, with some degree of justice, taxed with ingratitude; this may perhaps proceed from their natural levity, which incapacitates the mind from receiving a sufficient impression of obligations bestowed. They are bad servants, because indolence and a spirit of independance make the yoke of subjection, however light, to appear to them burdensome and unpleasant. They who are masters are, on the contrary, kind and indulgent to their domestics. Accustomed to concern themselves only in their own affairs, they are not remarkable for constancy in friendship.

On the commencement of winter the *habitants* kill their hogs, cattle, and poultry, for their own consumption, and for sale at market. The provisions are kept in the garrets of the dwelling-houses, where they soon become frozen, and are thus preserved until wanted for use. Vegetables are deposited in cellars, or in excavations of the earth made for the purpose, beyond the influence of the cold.

The whole of the Canadian inhabitants are remarkably fond of dancing, and frequently amuse themselves at all seasons with that agreeable exercise.

To clear lands in lower Canada, they cut down the wood with a hatchet, heap it together, and burn it; the large roots are extirpated by digging into the ground. The soil thus laid open becomes covered with vegetation, and cattle are sent to graze upon it. This mode is tedious and expensive, and costs, including labour, about thirty shillings sterling per acre. The Americans have introduced into the province a practice much more simple and economical, and attended with equal success. They cut down the trees, burn them, and sow between the trunks, after having turned up the earth with a harrow or hoe. A third method is by setting fire to the growing woods, and cutting around the bark of the larger trees, to prevent the sap from ascending; these dry up during the first year, and cease to re-produce their foliage; the farmer then sows his grain, and removes at leisure the trees that are dead. The cedar and spruce trees, whose roots are incorruptible, and long resist the ploughshare, it becomes necessary to eradicate before the land can be sown.

An active and intelligent farmer will in the end find it more advantageous to take uncleared land, or that which is half cleared, than to purchase such as has been long in

cultivation. The latter is subject to have been exhausted by the bad mode of farming practised in the country. The fields are generally laid out with little taste; and it is certainly more agreeable for him to arrange, after his own plan, his house, his offices, his fields, and his avenues.

In Lower Canada, acquisition of property of two kinds may be made; the one in the dependence on a *seigneur*; the other from government, in free and common soccage. Lands of the last description are divided into *townships*, and each township into lots of two hundred acres each, receding in depth from the front line. When a person obtains twelve hundred acres he pays half the expence of the survey, and his proportion of fees, and two-sevenths of the land are reserved for the disposal of government.

The borders of the great river, and those of most of the rivers which disembogue themselves into it, are occupied by *seigneuries*, under the regulation of the French laws. The lands at the disposal of government, part of which are conceded, lie retired in the depths, between the rivers Chaudiere, Saint Francis, Yamaska, and Chambly, extending to the forty-fifth parallel, and are subject to English rights.

The usual conditions adopted in letting farms are, that the proprietor should furnish the cattle, and incur the

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La Danse Ronde. Circular Dance of the Canadians.

Engrav'd by I. C. Stadler

expence of clearing, of making new ditches and fences, and of supplying utensils of husbandry. The produce of every description is afterwards equally divided between him and the farmer. The public charges are, a contribution of labour, or of money, for the repair of roads and bridges, and the payment of the ecclesiastical *dime*, at a twenty-sixth part on wheat, oats, barley, rye, and pease.

The average produce of the soils in Lower Canada may be estimated at fifteen to one for oats, twelve for barley, six for pease, and eleven for summer wheat. The Canadian farmer generally allows after wheat, a natural layer, which is pastured on by cattle, and consists of small white clover and grass. This mode is highly uneconomical for breeding of these animals. In the following autumn the land is ploughed, and in the spring sown with wheat or oats,

The twentieth of April is the usual time at which the sowing commences in Lower Canada, and the whole of the seed is usually in the ground before the fifteenth of May The season for beginning the harvest is early in August.

The Canadians have, for several years past, adopted the practice of British husbandmen, by introducing manure into their lands, and they are now convinced of the utility and profit attending that mode of culture.

A considerable proportion of the lands in Lower Canada

is of a light soil, and it is an opinion generally received, that these are soon exhausted. The rains, which fall heavily upon a mountainous country, will more readily carry away a sandy than a clayey soil, the particles of which adhere more strongly to each other. A soil may become impoverished by the loss of those earthy particles into which the plants which grow upon it are at length reduced, and of which it is deprived when they are not allowed to decay upon the spot where they have been reared. Plants do not take away any sensible weight from the soil, and it is the moisture with which the earth is watered that is the sole cause of vegetation. The soil, it appears, is nothing more than a *matrix* in which the *germina* of plants receive their growth, and which they seem only to derive from heat and moisture. Water alone may contain all the salts, and all the principles that are to concur in producing this growth. A light soil is tilled by the most trifling labour, and is easily penetrated by rains; but a heavy rain will press it together, and thereby prevent it from imbibing moisture to any considerable depth; in this state, if wet weather be soon succeeded by sunshine, the humidity is evaporated, and it is deprived of the nourishment which it should have otherwise supplied to its vegetables. Prejudice then determined the soil to be exhausted and ruined; it was abandoned, when nothing more was

Drawn by G. Heriot Esqr.

Minuets of the Canadians.

Engrav'd by I. C. Stadler

wanting, to reward with ample returns the proprietor by whom it was neglected, than the application of a proper mode of agriculture.

A somewhat less degree of friability constitutes what is termed a strong soil, which requires tillage of a more laborious nature. But this species of land, when once prepared, manured, and watered, preserves for a much longer time its moisture, which is a necessary vehicle of the salts, whether they be conveyed and successively renewed by rains or by artificial watering. Manure separates the soil, and raises it for a time, either by its active particles, which, in compact soils, can only unfold themselves by degrees, or by its oily particles, which fattening land of the former species render it capable of retaining, for a longer time, the moisture, which its too great laxity, and the incoherence of its particles would otherwise soon allow to escape.

Manure, therefore, properly applied, supplies in a certain degree, and according to its quality, the deficiency of tillage. But no expedient can be an equivalent for rain. In America there is no rainy season which is not fruitful, whilst, in a dry season, the income diminishes sometimes one-half.

From the position of the settled part of Upper Canada, the climate is comparatively mild in winter, which is

there but of short duration, and frequently without much frost; it sometimes indeed happens, that in the course of that season there is hardly any snow. Neither Lake Ontario, Lake Erie, Lake Huron, or Lake Michigan, are subject to be frozen at any great distance from their coasts; but Lake Superior, from its northerly situation, is usually covered by a solid body of ice, for an extent of seventy miles from land.

To attribute the predominance of cold in Canada to the multiplicity and extent of its rivers and lakes, appears to be an hypothesis not altogether correct. The humidity of the earth, and the abundance of water every where diffused throughout its surface, contribute, doubtless, in the summer months, to produce a coolness, by the evaporation which then takes place, in consequence of the dry and warm state of the atmosphere. But, in winter, when the degree of cold has once attained the freezing point, it can receive no augmentation from water; that element, considerably warmer than the part of the atmosphere to which it is contiguous, continues to emit warmth until its surface becomes congealed.

The energy of heat, and that of cohesive attraction, acting in constant opposition to each other, enter intimately into every operation, by which changes are produced in the properties of substances. These mutations

of capacities seem essentially requisite to the preservation of a more equal temperature, than otherwise might take place in the elements, of which our bodies form a part, and by which we are environed. The evaporation from water mitigates the solstitial warmth, and the quantity of heat which escapes previous to the congelation of that body, restrains the domination of frost from attaining that degree of exacerbation, at which it might otherwise arrive.

Were the power of cold capable of pervading with a velocity equal to that of light, every part of an immense body in a liquid state, the consolidation not progressive, and in a great measure superficial, would take immediate effect, whenever the whole could be brought to the temperature of thirty-two degrees of Fahrenheit's thermometer. The thawing of mountains of ice and snow, were heat to act in the same manner, would with equal rapidity take place.

The long continuation of frost and snows, which for a period of near six months in the year prevails in Lower Canada, may be attributed to the immense and desert regions which stretch towards the north. The snow seldom falls in any quantity in that province, unless when the wind blows from the north-east, which is the quarter of the mountains of ice. In passing over the unfrozen parts

of the sea, the current of cold air drives before it the vapours emitted from thence, which become immediately converted into snow. Whilst the wind continues in that direction, and whilst the snows are falling, the degree of cold is diminished; but no sooner does it change its position to the north-west, than the cold is considerably augmented. The evaporation of the snows contributes much to render so keen the winds of the west, and north-west, which, previous to their arrival in Lower Canada, traverse immense countries, and a prodigious chain of mountains enveloped in that fleecy covering.

The elevation of the earth is not the least important cause of the subtilty of the air, and of the severity of cold in this part of America, as the regions to the northward probably extend to the pole. The winds in Lower Canada generally proceed from the north-west, or north-east. When blowing from the former quarter, they pass over a long tract of territory, and the surface of the earth within the limits of their course, becomes deprived of a portion of its heat to mitigate the air. But, on continuing to blow in the same direction, they will sweep over a surface already cooled, and will thence receive no abatement of their severity. Advancing in this manner, they produce in their course the intenseness of frost. When the winds pass over large collections of water, the surface be-

comes cool, and the air proportionably mitigated; the colder water, more weighty than that beneath, descends; its place is supplied by that which is warmer, and a continued revolution thus takes place, until the surface becomes solid, and the further developement of warmth is restrained.

The vast and immeasurable forests which overspread the face of Canada, essentially contribute to the domination of cold. The leaves and branches of the trees are thickly interwoven with each other, and the surface of the ground, particularly in the northern parts, is covered by shrubs, brambles, and the more rank productions of vegetation. Into these gloomy recesses the rays of the sun can with difficulty penetrate, and can visit them but during a transient portion of the long summer's day. The earth overshadowed during the prevalence of heat, and covered by snow in winter, can emit but a small degree of warmth to temper the piercing winds; and the leaves of the trees which are exposed to the sun, possess not a sufficient quantity of matter to imbibe, or to retain the effect of his rays. The winds, in passing over these forests, can therefore undergo but little alteration in their temperature. The snows are there retained in the spring, to a much later period than on the cleared grounds, and tend to the prolongation of cold.

The clearing and cultivation of lands have much contributed to the amelioration of the climate of Canada; and the number of fires kept up in the habitations in different parts of the country, may likewise have a share in producing this change. Certain however it is, that the winters in those parts of Lower Canada, in the vicinity of Quebec, have remitted several degrees of their former severity. An intelligent priest in the island of Orleans, kept, for half a century, a correct meteorological table; and his successor continued it for eight years longer. The result of their observations tended to prove, that the medium of cold in winter had diminished eight degrees within that period.

The mercury in the thermometer sometimes descends in winter to the thirty-sixth degree below zero in Fahrenheit's scale; but the atmosphere rarely continues long in that dry and intense state.

The river Saint Lawrence is seldom frozen so far down its course as Quebec, although immense bodies of ice crowding upon each other, continue to float up and down with the tides. The winter of 1799 was the last in which what is called the Pont was formed, and when carriages passed across the ice from Quebec to Point Levi. The ice in these regions is of a much harder nature than that of climates less subject to the influence of severe frost; it

contains more air, and its contexture is much stronger, from the great degree of cold by which it is congealed; being suddenly formed, it is less transparent, as well as harder, than that which is more tardy in its formation. Although the congelation of water be rapid in its process, a considerable time is required for its solution when congealed. If ice, formed in the space of six minutes, be placed in such air as has acquired the temperature of forty-five degrees of Fahrenheit, it will be some hours in resuming its fluidity. In weather perfectly calm, water will frequently acquire a degree of cold beyond what is sufficient for its congelation, without any change in its liquid state; but if a breeze ruffle its surface, it becomes immediately solid.

The ice on the rivers in Canada, acquires a thickness of two feet and upwards, and is capable of supporting any degree of weight. That on the borders of the Saint Lawrence, called the *bordage*, sometimes exceeds six feet. The ice on the center of the stream, where it is frozen over, is the thinnest part, occasioned probably by the convexity of the river. In great bodies of water which run with rapidity, the center is higher frequently by some feet than the surface towards either of the shores.

Horses and carriages are driven with great rapidity along the ice, and an accident seldom happens, except

sometimes towards the spring, when it becomes rotten and insecure.

The accumulation of snow in the woods, where it is not subject to be drifted by the winds, is usually six or seven feet in depth about the end of February, when it has attained its greatest quantity. The influence of the sun, after that period, gradually consumes it, although fresh supplies continue at intervals to fall, sometimes for six weeks after that period. The relative proportion of the snow to water, may be ascertained by means of a long cylinder closed at one end, and immersed until it reach the surface of the ground. It will thus contain a column of snow equal to the depth that has fallen; and on its being dissolved, will shew the quantity of water to which it is equal.

The mode of travelling in winter is no less rapid than convenient. A vehicle, called a *cariole*, is drawn by one or two horses, which are harnessed in the same manner as for any other carriage. The body of the more fashionable kind is like that of a curricle, and is fixed upon a slay shod with iron. It has an apron of bear-skin or leather, and within it is placed a buffalo-skin, called a robe, with which the legs and feet are kept warm. A person may thus travel, or drive about for his pleasure, without much inconvenience from cold, particularly if he employ a ser-

vant to drive the horses. In bad weather, slays with tops or covers made of leather, are in use. When the roads are level and good, the draft of one of those carriages is very little fatiguing for a horse, as a small degree of impulse is then required to retain it in rapid motion.

After a heavy fall of snow, the loaded slays which pass along in the vicinity of the towns, alternately take up in their front, and deposit a quantity of snow, and thus form in the roads furrows and ridges in a transverse position, which are called *cahots*; until these are filled up, travelling becomes fatiguing and unpleasant.

There is scarcely a *habitant* in Lower Canada who possesses not one or two slays, and much time is consumed during the winter season in driving from one place to another. The horses are of the Norman breed, and are rather small, but stout, hardy, fleet, and well calculated for draft. Notwithstanding the little care that is bestowed on them, and the ill treatment which many of them experience, they in general possess their strength to a great age.

The houses are kept warm in winter by means of cast metal-stoves, in which wood is burnt, and which, through pipes formed of sheet-iron, communicate an equable portion of heat to every part of a chamber. By this mode, and by the precautions which are taken on the part of the inhabitants, in wearing suitable cloathing when they expose

themselves to the air, the severity of the climate is but little felt or regarded.

The dry cold, by contracting the pores of the skin, seems in some degree to present a remedy for its own intenseness, and to counteract those impressions, of which the human frame would otherwise become more susceptible, and be perhaps unequal to sustain.

The French language, which is that of the inhabitants of Lower Canada, is spoken without any provincial accent. The proceedings of the legislature, and also those of the courts of law, are both in the English and French tongues.

TRAVELS THROUGH THE CANADAS

CONTAINING

A DESCRIPTION OF THE PICTURESQUE SCENERY

ON SOME OF THE RIVERS AND LAKES;

WITH AN ACCOUNT OF THE

PRODUCTIONS, COMMERCE, AND INHABITANTS

OF THOSE PROVINCES.

BY GEORGE HERIOT, ESQ.

Deputy Post Master General of British North America.

ILLUSTRATED WITH

A MAP AND NUMEROUS ENGRAVINGS, FROM DRAWINGS MADE AT THE SEVERAL PLACES BY THE AUTHOR.

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